緑の王 8

原作／たかしげ宙　漫画／曽我篤士

マガジンZKC

KCZ0363

緑の王 VERDANT LORD 8

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講談社

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彼らと心を通わす子供達の存在が
人類の「次の可能性」なのか？
一方、この混乱を利用し、独自の動きを
見せる勢力が出現。
世界に新たな戦乱の火種が
蒔かれようとしていた！
激変する状況の中、行動する植物〝化の
進むシンの体にも異変が!?
加速する危機に人類の打つ手は!!

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⑧

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講談社

緑の王

みどり

VERDANT LORD

おう

原作／たかしげ宙

漫画／曽我篤士

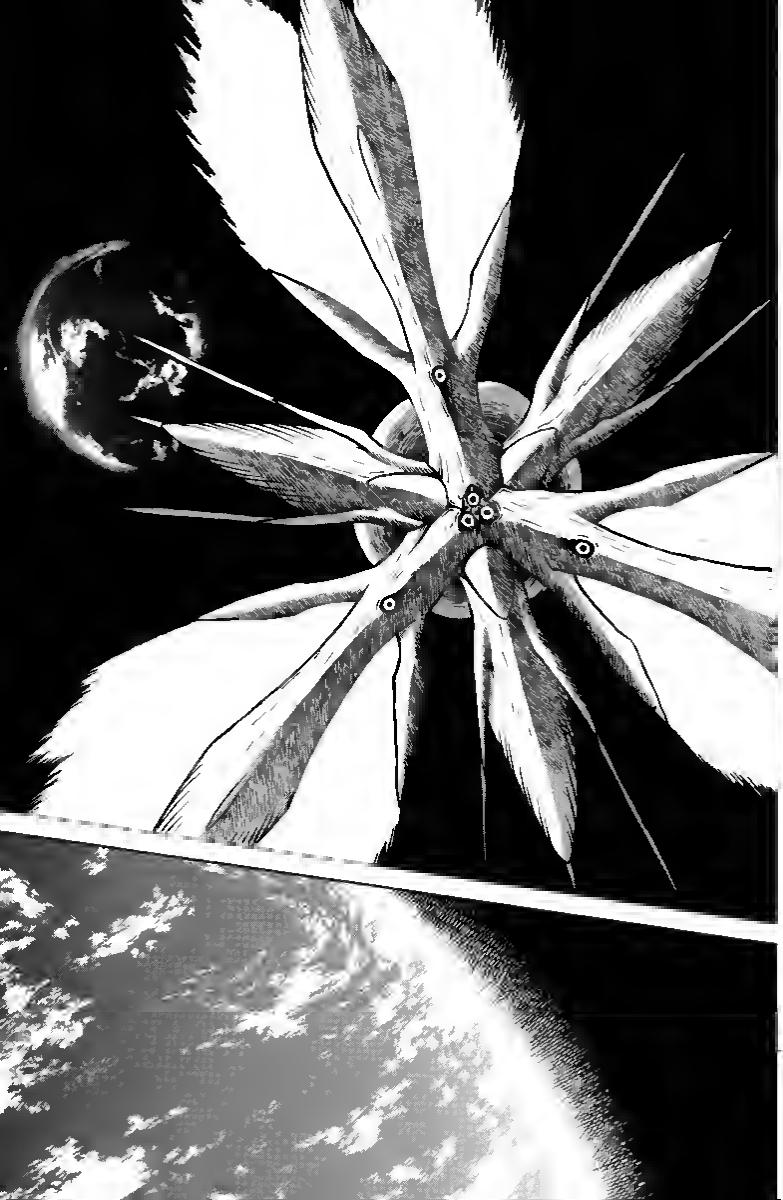
設定／高野真吾

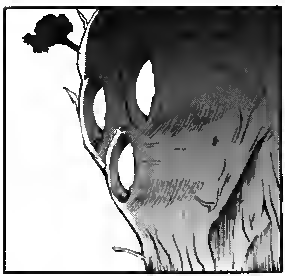
デザイン／福地仁

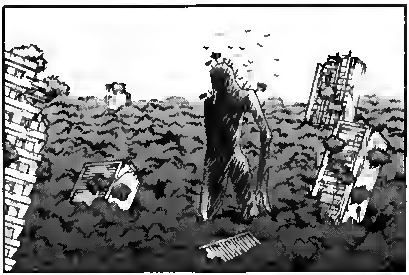
8

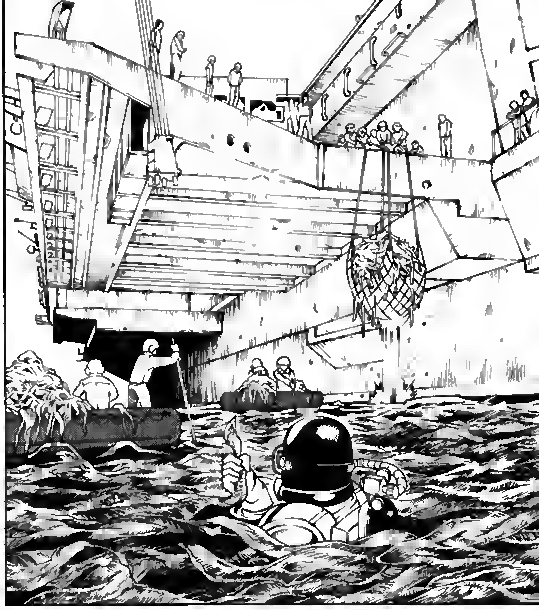
ALL THAT WAS VISIBLE
WAS A LENGTH OF THE TOWER. TO
LOOK UP OR DOWN WAS FRIGHTENING,
FOR THE REASSURANCE OF CONTINUITY WAS
NOT PROVIDED; THEY WERE NO LONGER PART OF THE
GROUND. THE TOWER MIGHT HAVE BEEN A
THREAD SUSPENDED IN THE AIR,
UNATTACHED TO EITHER THE
EARTH OR HEAVEN.

WRITTEN BY TED CHIANG
「TOWER OF BABYLON」
TRANSLATED BY HISASHI ASAKURA
EXCERPT FROM HAYAKAWA PUBLISHING MAGAZINE
「STORY OF YOUR LIFE」







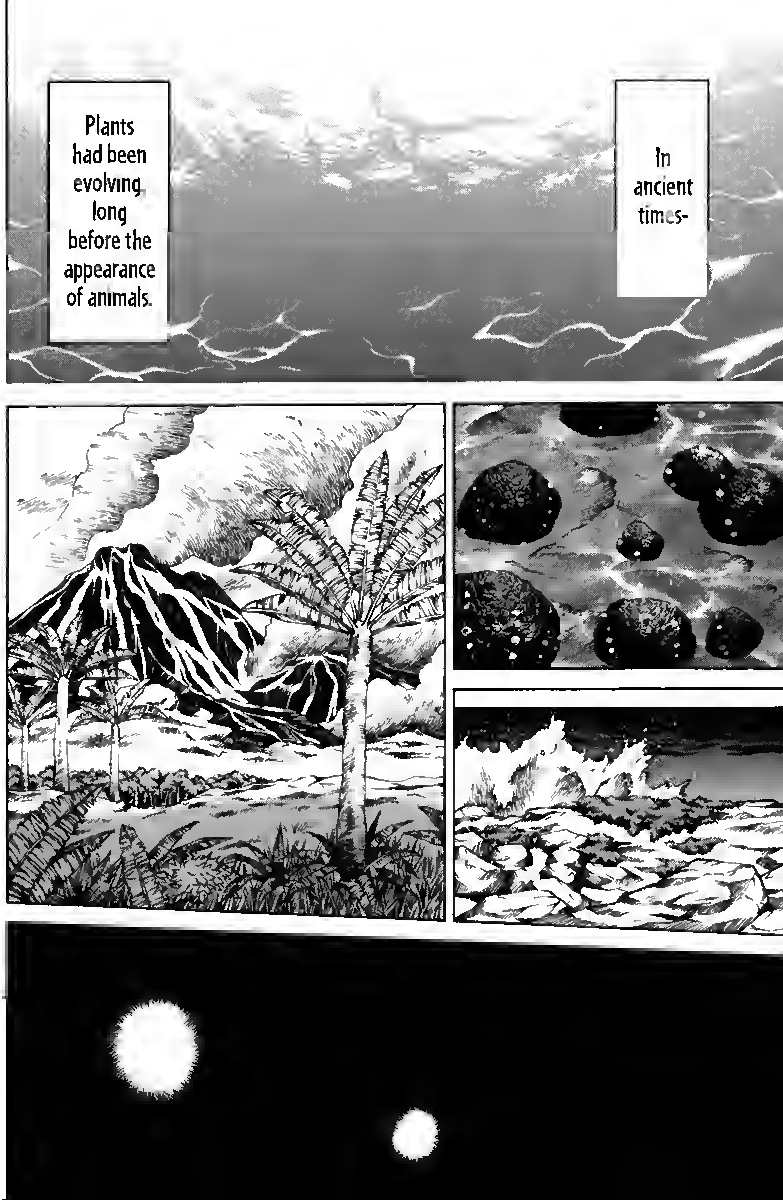


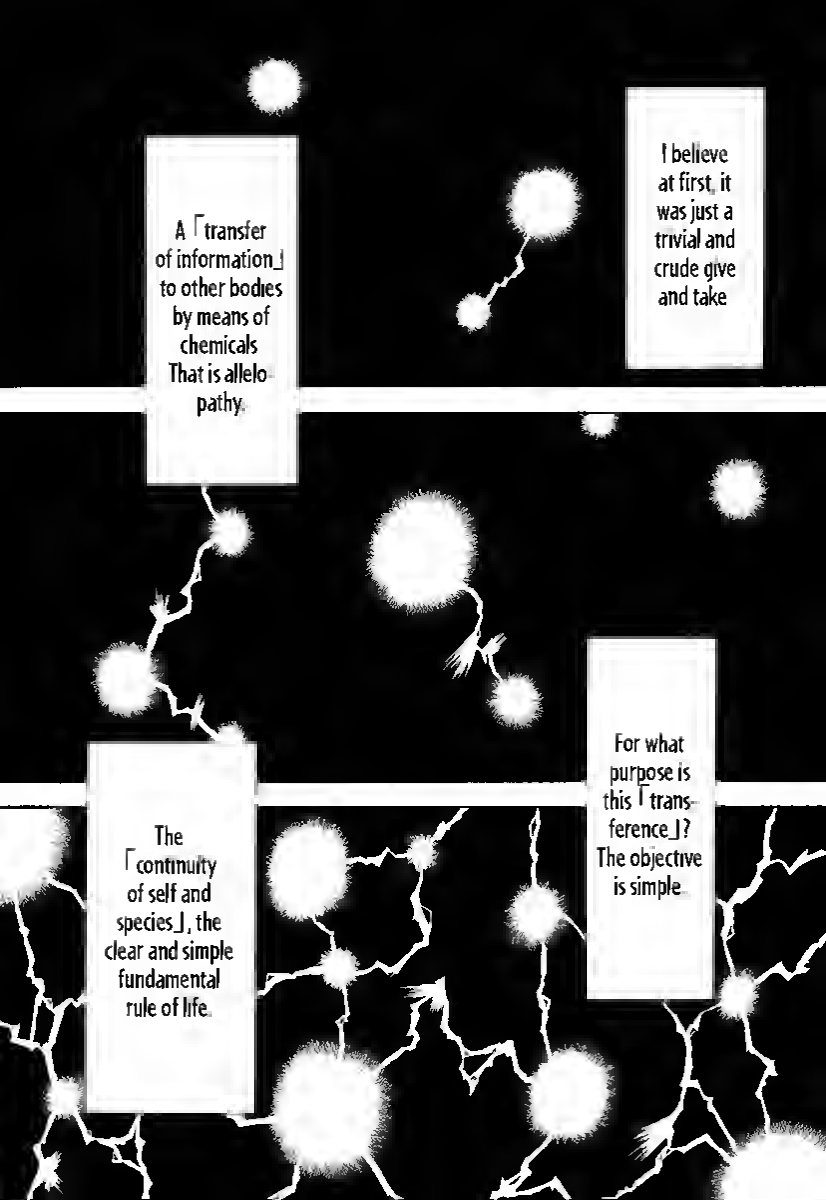
ㄱㄱ...
KUKU KU...
KU ...
.....

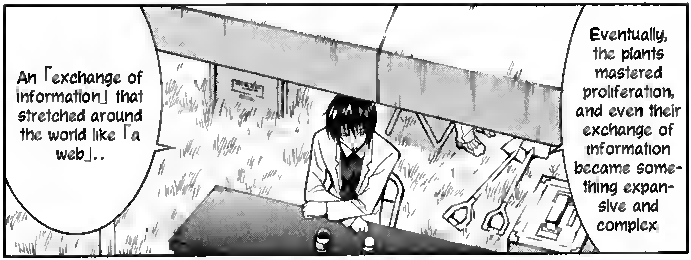
..
Hey,
Say some-thing
Don't you have anything else to talk about? For example-
.....
Like... what you've learned from your research until now!
..tell me.
I'm not in the mood. Let's do this next time...
SHOVE IT!! JUST TELL ME ALREADY!!
WHO KNOWS WHEN 「NEXT TIME」'S GONNA BE WITH YOU?!!

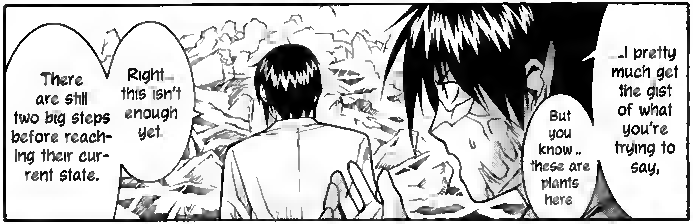
Grumble grumble
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE RACKET?!!
UH
..
There's a lot of guess work involved.
Don't expect too much
!
Y.. yeah...

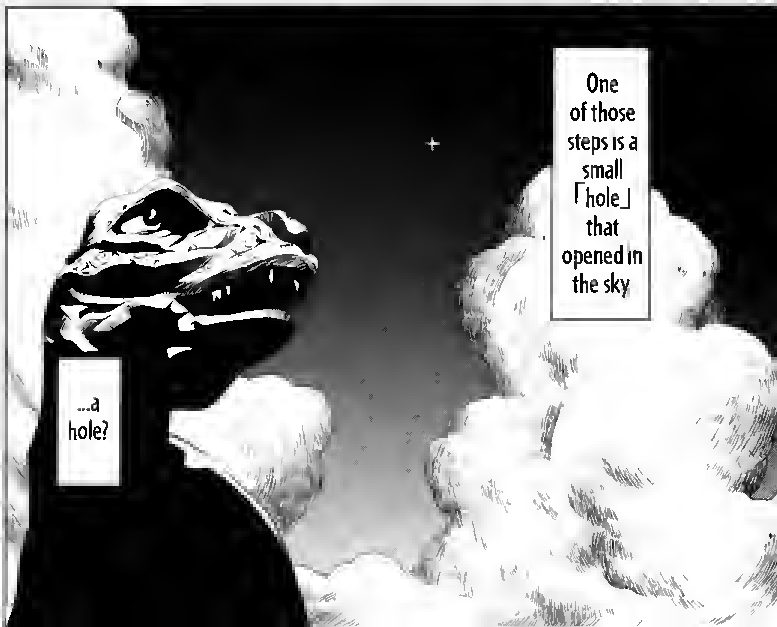
In order to explain the current situation I first need to throw out allelopathy as a foot hold
Generally speaking, it's a process for plants to give a one way influence to each other, with a slight nuance


Plants had been evolving long before the appearance of animals.
In ancient times-

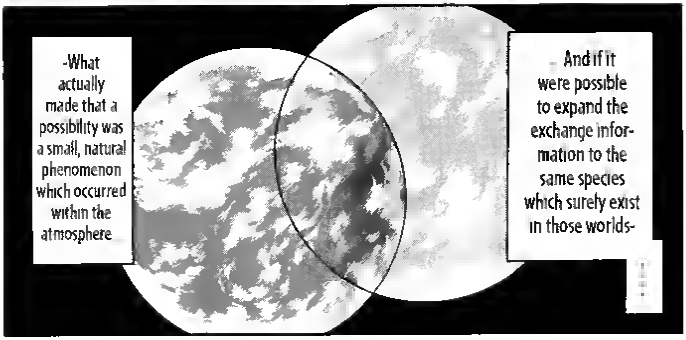

I believe at first, it was just a trivial and crude give and take
A 「transfer of information」 to other bodies by means of chemicals That is allelopathy.
For what purpose is this 「transference」? The objective is simple
The 「continuity of self and species」, the clear and simple fundamental rule of life.

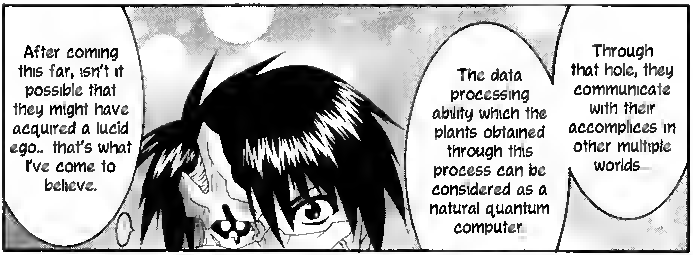

An 「exchange of information」 that stretched around the world like 「a web」..
Eventually, the plants mastered proliferation, and even their exchange of information became something expansive and complex


There are still two big steps before reaching their current state.
Right... this isn't enough yet.
But you know.. these are plants here
...I pretty much get the gist of what you're trying to say,


One of those steps is a small 「hole」 that opened in the sky
...a hole?

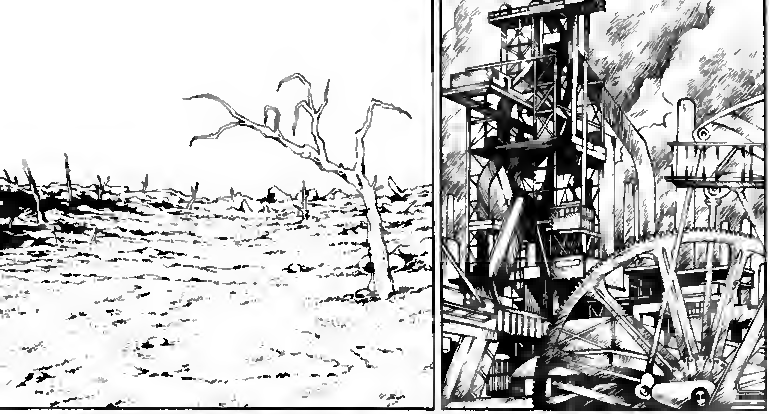
...Then should I stop here?
How am I supposed to do that?!!
First of all... imagine an infinite number of worlds that are similar to our own, yet different and existing simultaneously.


-What actually made that a possibility was a small, natural phenomenon which occurred within the atmosphere
... And if it were possible to expand the exchange information to the same species which surely exist in those worlds-
...


After coming this far, isn't it possible that they might have acquired a lucid ego.. that's what I've come to believe.
The data processing ability which the plants obtained through this process can be considered as a natural quantum computer.
Through that hole, they communicate with their accomplices in other multiple worlds.

I am.. I'm listening..
..so.. what's the other step?
That was until i found out about your meeting with the moa.. are you listening?
..honestly speaking, even as a personal opinion, i thought this to be an unlikely possibility

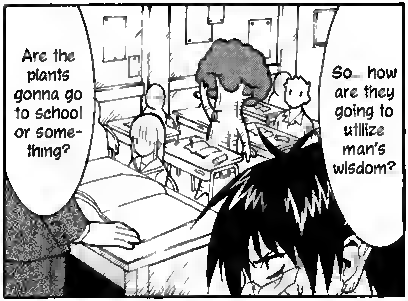
The other step,
is man



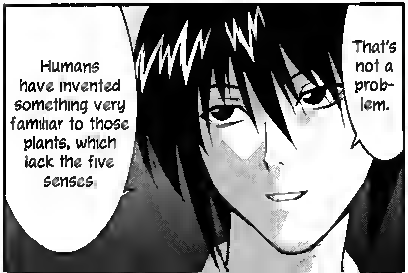
Is that all?
Really?
Ah?
Well .. as a dangerous group that can bring about disaster... probably
Say the plants have an ego .. how do you think they see humans?

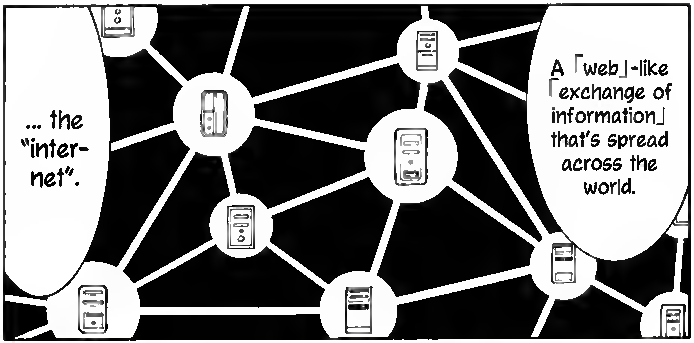
You can say we're living beings that have and explosively quick thought process... and we have a vast amount of stored knowledge as a result ..
For they, who live in a world of a different time scale from us,

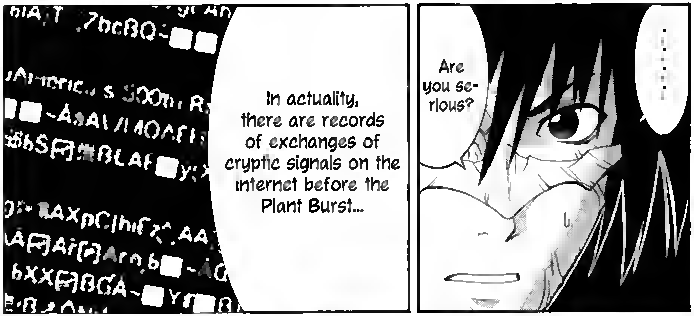
You don't think they would utilize this?
If you asked the plants what humans looked like to them,
They might answer that we look like some extravagant feast, or a mountain of treasure.


So... how are they going to utilize man's wisdom?
Are the plants gonna go to school or something?

They wouldn't have any interest in treasure, would they...?
Exactly.. as I said earlier, their only concern is the continuity of life
I mean treasure in that sense.


That's not a problem.
Humans have invented something very familiar to those plants, which lack the five senses.


A「web」-like「exchange of information」that's spread across the world.
... the "internet".

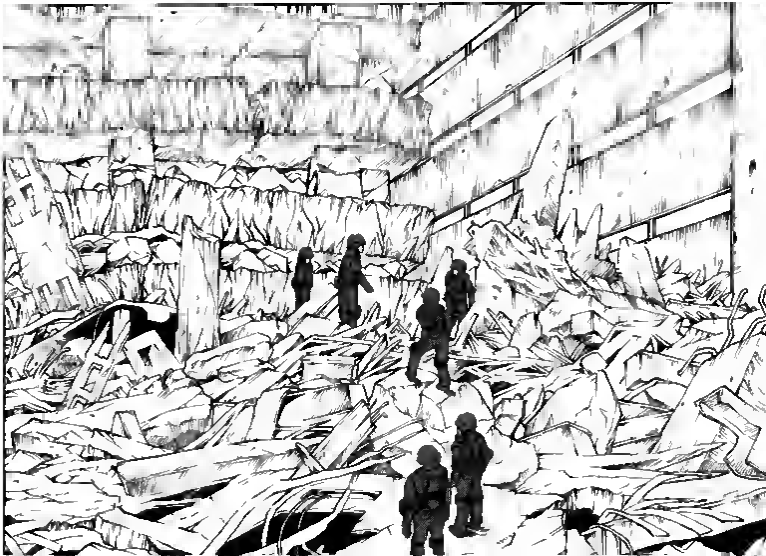

In actuality, there are records of exchanges of cryptic signals on the internet before the Plant Burst...
Are you serious?
.....

Literally, we're being used... as a step.
And groping for the「next possibility」That's what they're doing with our current world
Tapping,
Deciphering,

I guess that's about it for a quick explanation
Anything else?
What..
What do you meant by the next possibility..?
That's what I'm looking into.
But, this is what I think.
Maybe the plants themselves don't completely understand where they're headed?
The overlapping of the many worlds,
The concept of using the bodies of animals as limbs,
It's all nothing but a grand trial and error, and they don't know what will produce what sort of outcome unless they give it a go

There's no reason for there to be one conclusion.
And at a time like this
Making me do a mock lecture for you
Why are you exhausted?
I'm the one that's tired from talking
Could it be,
You were worried about me?

WE'VE FOUND HER!!
INSIDE THE RUBBLE ...
Y...YOU IDIOT! DON'T MAKE ME SICK.
Yeah, you're right



MS. KELLY!
IT'S ME!! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
AH
IT'S STILL DANGEROUS!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

OLD MAN, DON'T!!
KUH... WAS IT TOO SOON?!!
It's okay...
ドドドド
ドドン
KELLY!

Do you recognize me...?
Kelly..

Aha ha..
Haa

Wow.. this is embar-rassing..
-da..
i- ah...

-uh ah..
Ah
Ah!. Ah!
!!!
!!!
Rahh
!
i. eɔ

STOP! THAT'S ENOUGH!
DAH... AH!
UH ...!!
Listen. Don't force yourself. . you're just going to make it harder on yourself.
Your speech center
was damaged.

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VERDANT LORD

by Hiroshi Takashige & Atsushi Soga

If you like this manga please support its creators by buying a copy of the original book.

Verdant Lord v8 Ch 47

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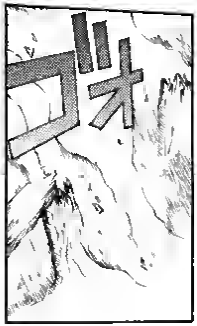
.....

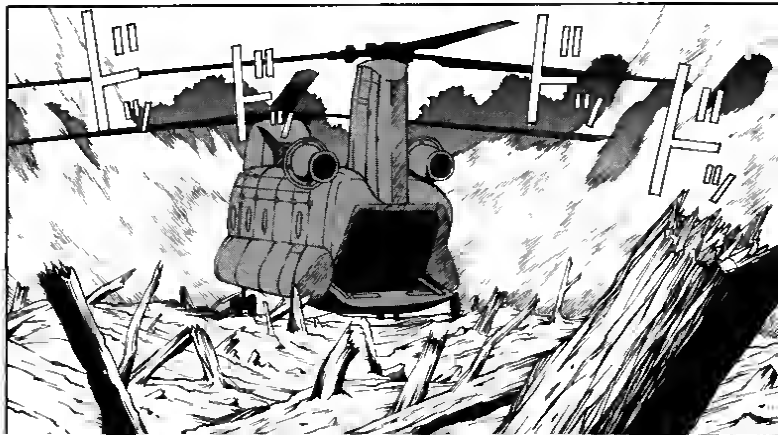
But suddenly, the "words" to express those things disappear from your head...
Until now, you understood what people are saying, and the things you wanted to say to them,
How do you think it feels?

Who knows
Even when trying to imagine it, we unconsciously think about it with "words"...
It's probably an agony that only she herself can understand ...
....
The plants...
Where do they plan to go after taking over us humans and animals..?

ドドドドド

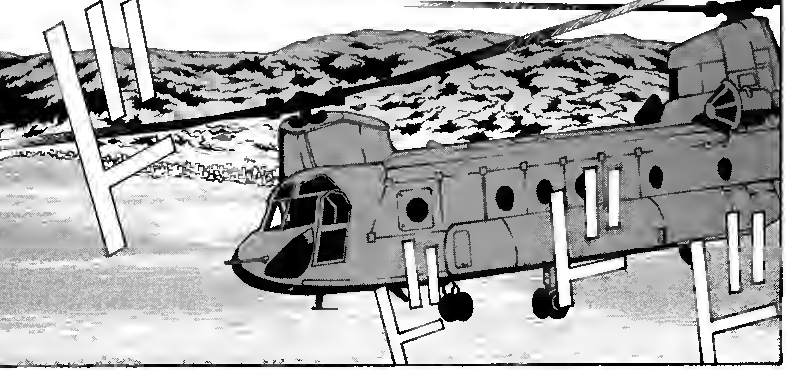

ゴオ

ドドーン
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?! THIS IS A ROUGH PICK UP!
They're just creating a place to land. Actually, this isn't too bad thanks to the Arethusa's rampage.


ドドドドド

WE CAME TO PICK YOU UP!
SHIN!!
Oh?
Hey, hey, it's only been a day at most.
Eh-?

Oh- An-chan!
What the? Everyone's here...
Even you, Major ?!
Yes Good work
The aircraft carrier was rendered immobile
So I applied for a transfer and they changed my assignment
You are Doctor Ken Souma, correct? We will be taking you under our care. This way
....



.....

Maybe the plants themselves don't completely understand where they're headed?

As they got smarter, the number of 「plant survival plans」 they could test out grew. and one of those ideas turned out to be the Arethusa?
In other words, it doesn't mean that the plants were trying to create Arethusa from the beginning.

What the hell... they're not that different from Ken! Dragging people into their experiments...
...What the hell are you saying?!

Hey - don't be rude.
...
ピュー

ミシッ

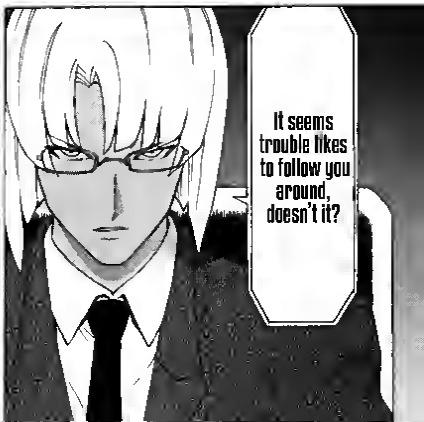
キャー
キャー
キャー

GAHH

Hmm... looks like she's suffering from motor aphasia after all.
But as for how turning into an Arethusa is affecting her ... that's still uncertain
Won't the plant repair her brain or something?
I can't see any signs of that... unfortunately.

It seems the plant has decided that the body's language function is unnecessary for Arethusa...
.....
Wanna play..?

The loss suffered at the Brazil office... shall I give you the exact number?
Naturally. I'll have you produce results.
I'll make up for it


It seems trouble likes to follow you around, doesn't it?

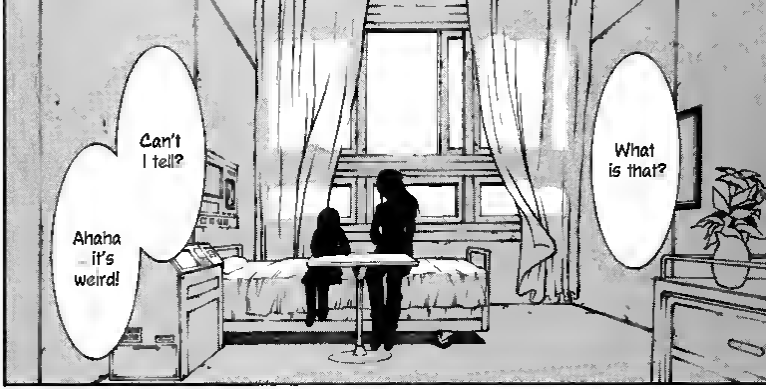
I'll clear it up.
I don't think of it as compensation... it's just, I need to do that much at least to meet expectations.
ギィ
ガチャ

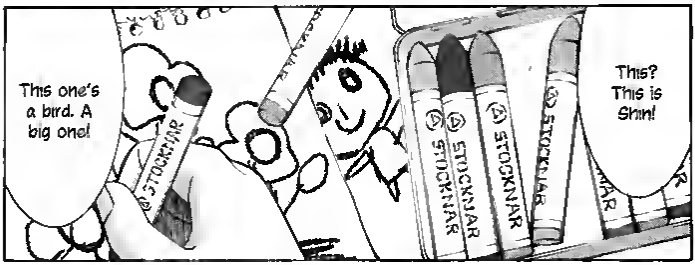
Sketch Book
AH...
Yeah, but...
It's not good to be alone...

Said it's bugging her...
Yeah... everyday since we've come here.

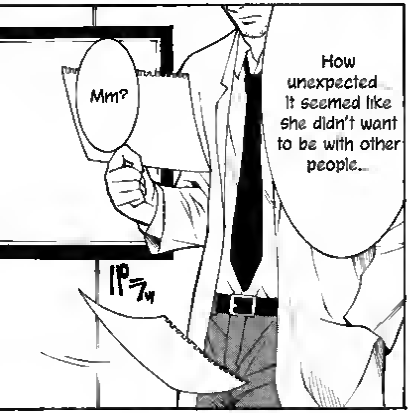
Dina is?

I see.

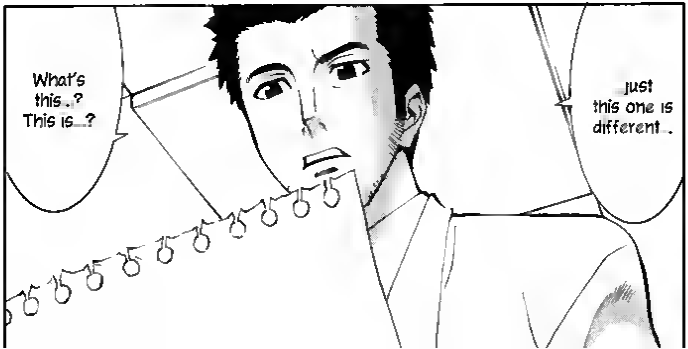

What is that?
Can't I tell?
Ahaha ... it's weird!

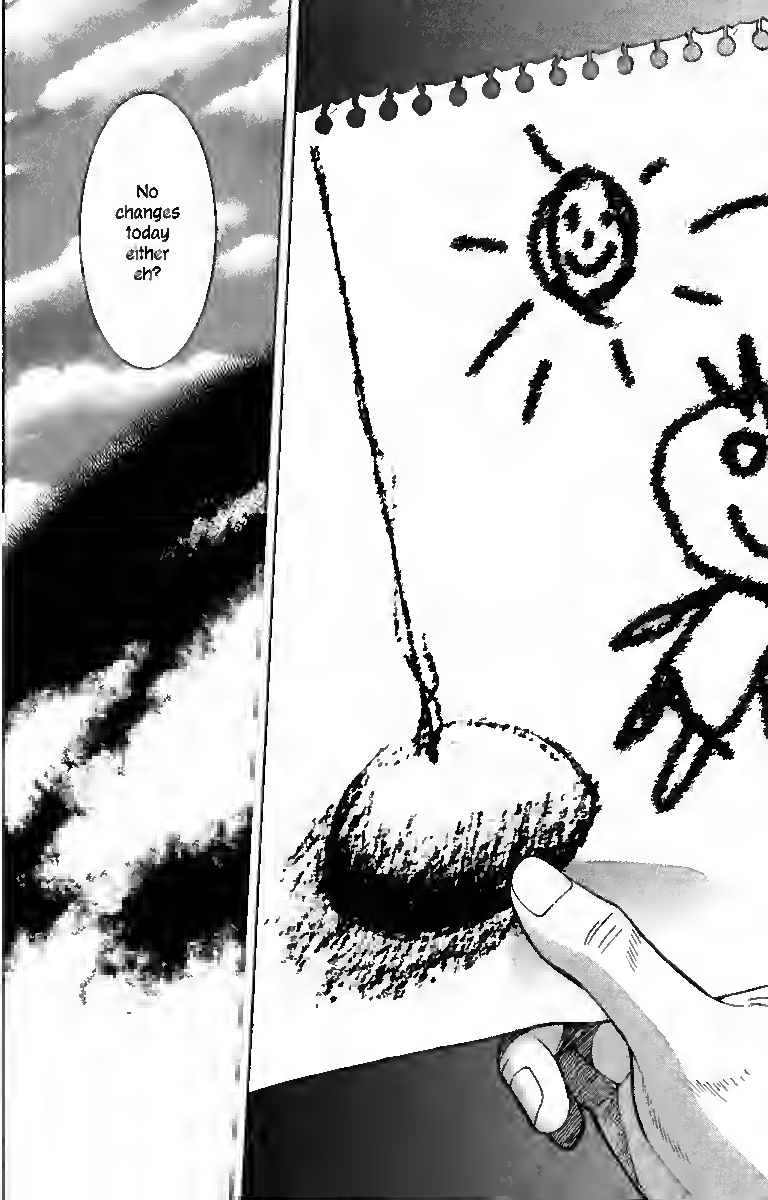

This?
This is Shin!
STOCKNAR
This one's a bird. A big one!

Let's go outside!
I'm coming in, Kelly-san.
About continuing the examinations


Mm?
How unexpected... It seemed like she didn't want to be with other people...

So Dina was here..
Oh...?

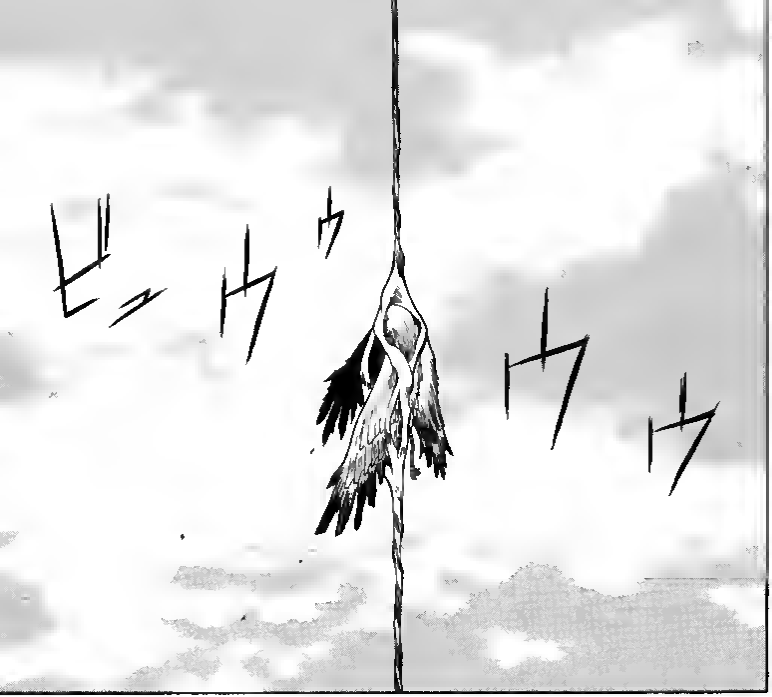

What's this..? This is...?
just this one is different..


No changes today either eh?

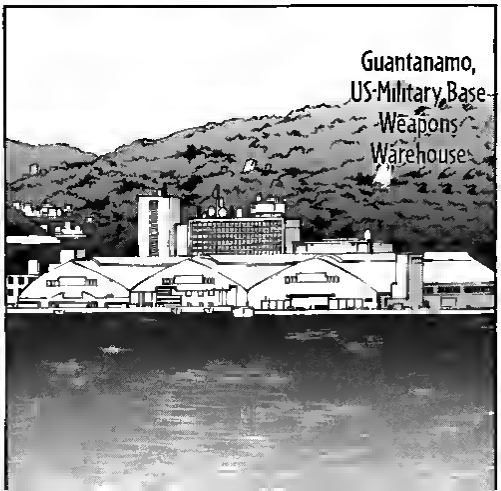
I wonder what it is? All I can say is that it's huge
Quite some time's passed since it appeared ...

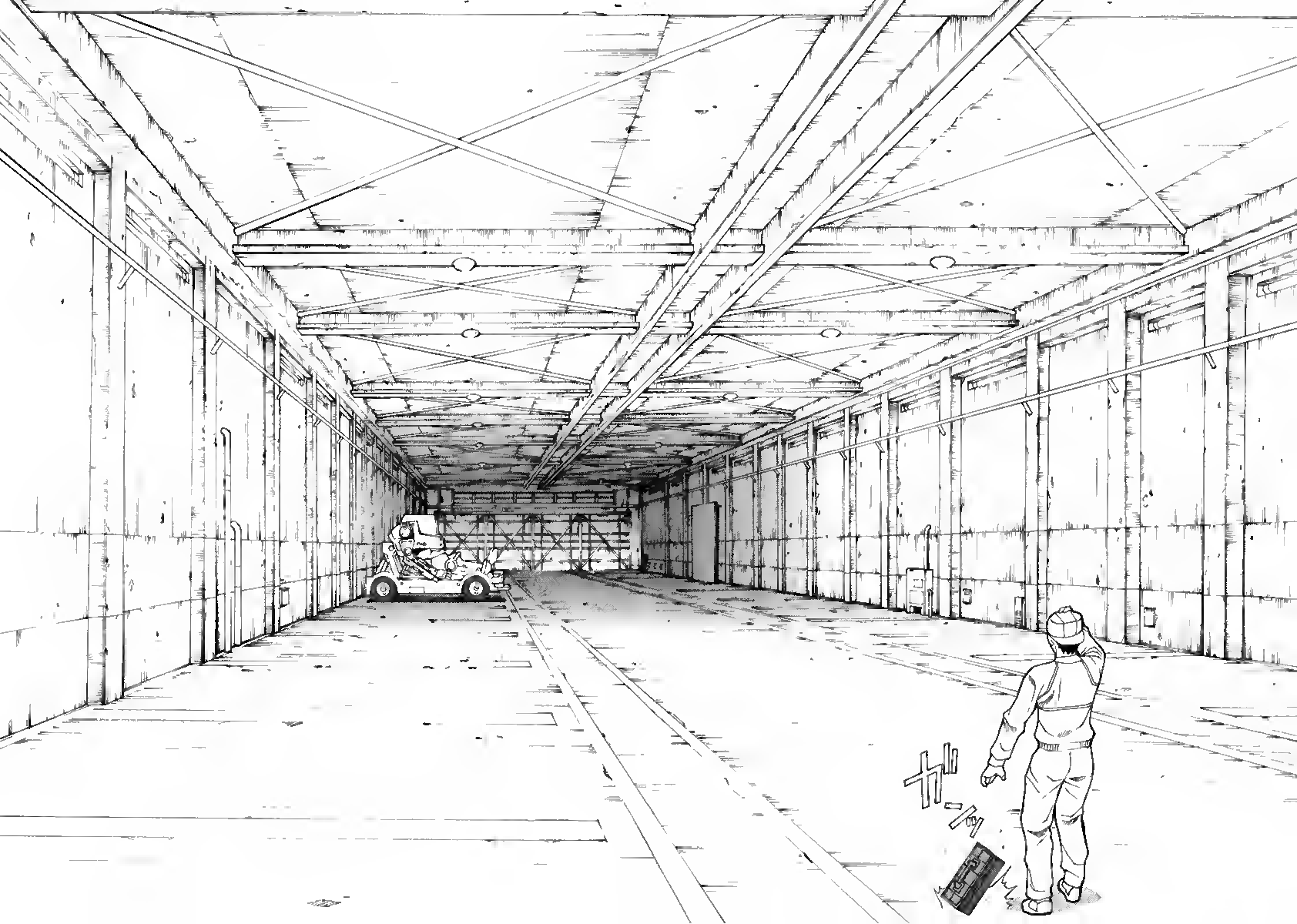
Am I seeing things...? Something's-
?

The only thing that's certain is that it's probably worthless... to us at least

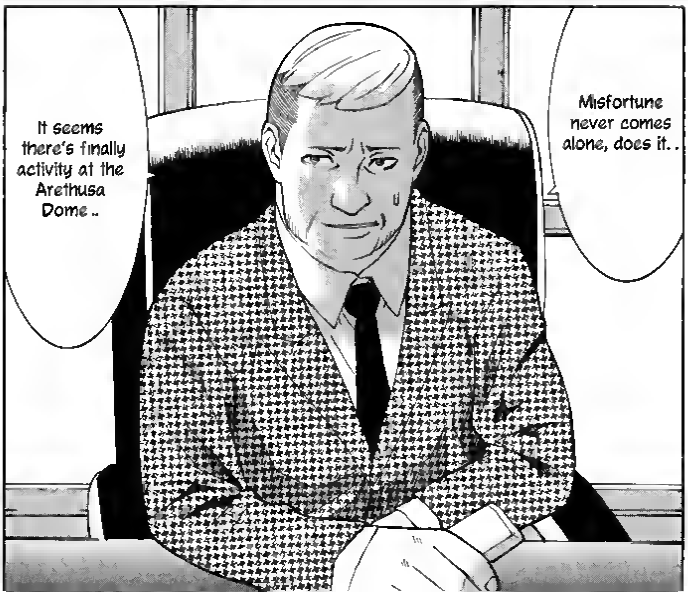

ヒュウ
ウ
ウ

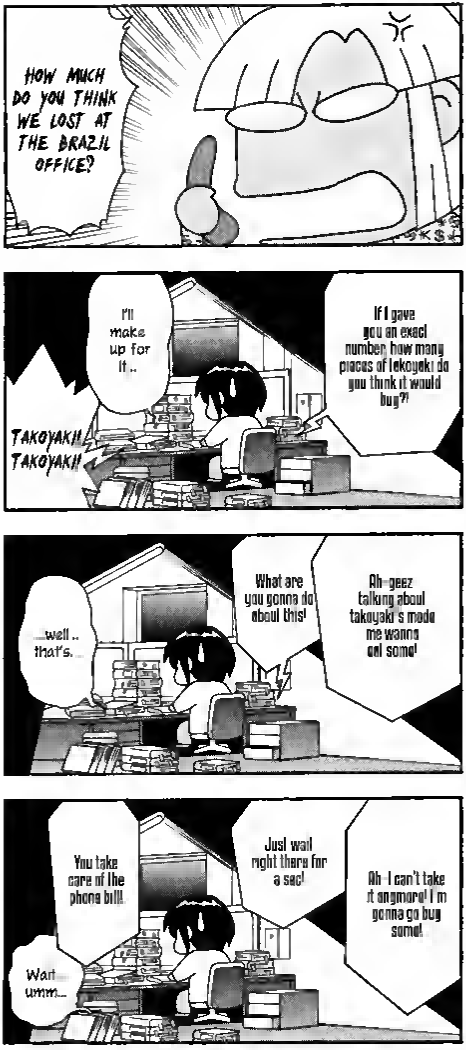
!!?
……?

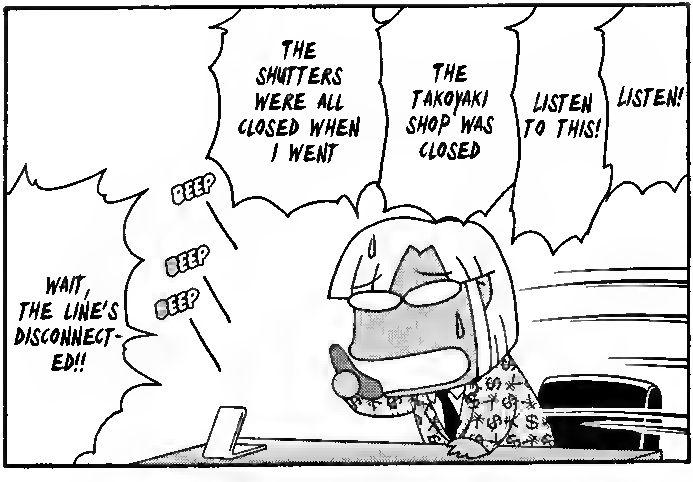

Guantanamo,
US-Military Base
Weapons
Warehouse


カーン

Okay... mm...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!?!
THE UNIT AT THE GUANTANAMO BASE- "DISAPPEARED"?!!


It seems there's finally activity at the Arethusa Dome..
Misfortune never comes alone, does it..


HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK WE LOST AT THE BRAZIL OFFICE?
I'll make up for it..
If I gave you an exact number how many pieces of takoyaki do you think it would buy?!
TAKOYAKI! TAKOYAKI!
What are you gonna do about this!
Ah-geez talking about takoyaki's made me wanna eat some!
...well.. that's...
Just wait right there for a sec!
Ah- I can't take it anymore! I'm gonna go buy some!
You take care of the phone bill!
Wait... umm...


LISTEN!
LISTEN TO THIS!
THE TAKOYAKI SHOP WAS CLOSED
THE SHUTTERS WERE ALL CLOSED WHEN I WENT
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
WAIT, THE LINE'S DISCONNECTED!!

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VERDANT LORD

by Hiroshi Takashige & Atsushi Soga

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Verdant Lord v8 Ch 48

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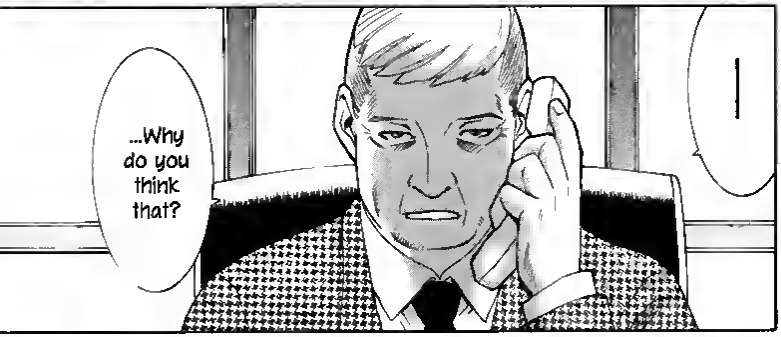
Whoa, whoa, whoa! Don't you know this path is restricted?!
Civilians aren't allowed past this point!
Even if you went that way, just look at that. The road is blocked off.
What, another one?
ゴォォォ

ドドド

-Prioritize sending out as many completed MT to the American army as possible... is that what you said?
You know... there's a limit to coercion.
Are you telling me forfeit the trust of my other clientele?
I understand it's reckless, Gates.
I can't get into details, but...
Our nation is in a state of emergency.
I'd really like for you to cooperate.

A COUP D'ÉTAT,
Is it...


...Why do you think that?
I

The reasons are two-fold.
As of late, my company has received an increasing number of orders focusing on maintenance parts from the military.」
「That gives rise to the prediction that the American army will be taking military action in the coming days.」

If you were at war with another country, knowing you, you would have been long prepared. And seeing as how you've accepted Ken's opinion, I don't believe you would plunge into a full out war with the plants...
And yet, here you are, 「working hard to supplement your military armaments in a panic.」
Well,
I guess there was no point in even asking you that question.
Activity from a military group that's detached itself from the government, in other words-
In that case, that only leaves trouble from within.
They disappeared along with a large number of soldiers and weapons...
A part from the military suddenly cut off all contact.
It happened early dawn yesterday.

You did well to hold them down for this long.
Hon-estly though ...
Please stop with the small talk.
That someone could hide something from Robby Bernard's eyes... not bad...
...Shall we return to busi-ness?
Are you an ogre, telling me that right now?
Even within this world's current state of affairs... the US government was able to function hon-estly thus far, it was the work of none other than you. I'm praising you.
Depending on your reply, I might even send over some state-of-the-art fuselages..
More so than immediate gains, what I want is accurate informa-tion.
I'll just put this out there, but, I won't budge no matter how much you offer me

Tell me- what is going on right now?
.....
A 「pole」 in the sky?
That's the report from the soldiers on site.
They say a thin, long pole-like object extend ing straight into the sky above the dome has become visible

NOD
Ah... uh!
Can you send out a heli-copter?
If it's a request from you, doctor, we can even send out a military force
I don't need all that...
For now.
Don't lean out, I...it's danger-ous!
Wahh-!
ドドド

It's the size of a mountain. As a living being, it's probably the largest ever in history.

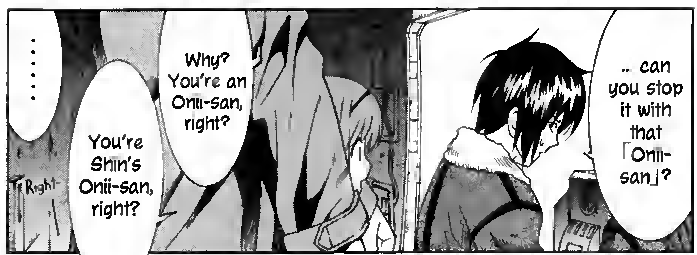
.....

The real thing far exceeds the imagination, doesn't it... how did it gather this much material?

It seems the carbon, it's composition material, was mostly brought in by an ocean-type Arethusa.
And that raw material freighter was also to be used as building material itself...
. here it is So this is it...!
Let's see...
I knew it.. You can't tell by looking, but the dome's volume has gotten smaller...
So that which was repeatedly referred to as an empty theory is right before my eyes ...
Rather than saying it's frustrating to be beaten to the punch by the plants... honestly, it's moving...
Geez... instead of putting on airs, can't you just tell us what that is? Onii-san.

You idiot... It'll probably get thicker from here on... didn't you listen to what he was saying about the dome just now?
Eh?! That skinny thing is? Surely, you jest!
...it's rather difficult to swallow.
...But still, to think that that thing is built all the way to space...
Not built... but rather, dropped.
They're trying to connect space and earth with that.
It's an orbital elevator.

... you really like to be round-about, don't you, Onii-san?
In Japanese terms, a 「spider's web」. In Western terms, 「Jacob's Ladder」, I suppose.
The Arethusa rocket that was previously shot off becomes a satellite
The same centripetal force as being pulled to earth's surface.
Geostationary Orbit
And while rising to a geostationary orbit, it drops a 「thread」 down to earth... The reason it's orbit was different from that of a regular satellite was to attain the balance for that
Gravity + Lorentz Force
Surface Anchor and Material Storage


.. can you stop it with that 「Onii-san」?
Why? You're an Onii-san, right?
You're Shin's Onii-san, right?
To Right

... to put it in layman's terms, it's like 「Jack and the Beanstalk」.
It spans over 10,000km and it's composed of carbon nano tubes. It's a giant tree built out of the strongest material currently imaginable
I know that story!

A plant... to space, huh...
Hehh-
Putting the plants' objective aside, this existence... it's much too dangerous.
Eh?
... you're right...

As you know, this is something humans have tried, but failed to make. But now, such a thing has been created 「on it's own」 ...
Something safer and more cost effect than rockets, with the potential to transport large quantities of materials...
Enough to completely change the face of the world...
New kindling for the flames... is it.
Without a doubt, Russia, China, and even The EU, will surely move to take the domes that also exist in Africa and Indonesia.
If this truth got out,
A struggle amongst humans will develop simultaneously.
In addition to the first interspecies war in history-

This isn't something one can possibly bear... this impoverished world-
Shin?
?
フラッ

GU OH!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BOY?!!
CLOSE THE DOOR!! HURRY!!!

ゴギッ
ゴギッ
ゴギッ

Just hap-pened...?
... what...
ゴォォ
ドドドド

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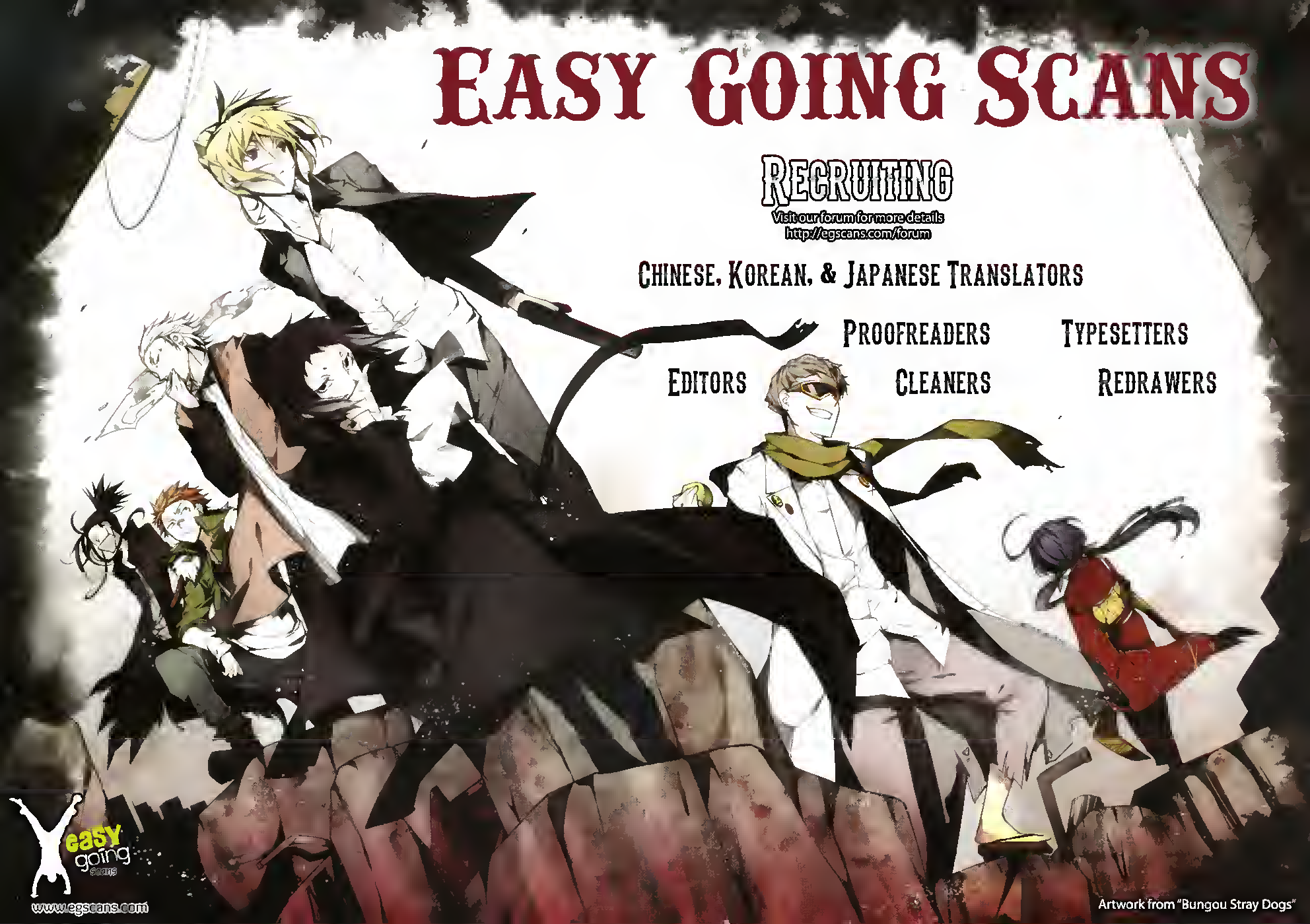
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NUU
...

CAN WE PURSUE THE BOY?!
Of course. That's what the transmitter's for.
DON'T LOSE HIM!!

Are you... okay?
Uhh..
... does that mean he was controlled by his advanced state of Arethusa-fication?
Well, he doesn't have much time left...
HOW CAN YOU BE SO COMPOSED?!!
AREN'T YOU THE ONE THAT TURNED HIS BODY THAT WAY?!! DO SOMETHING!!
If I didn't do what I did back then, he would've been long dead.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
That's enough, Second Lt.

Is this really the way to help him right now?

SHIN!! SHIN! IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, ANSWER ME!!
RUSTLE.. DASH..
Is this... the sound of him moving through the forest on foot...?
RUSTLE.. SNAP

...
Has Shin finally become the same as them..?
...There's also a report that other Arethusa are simultaneously heading for the dome.
... what's going on? What is this trans-mission?!
No!
SOME-THING FROM SHIN?!
...mm?
...Who's this weirdo?

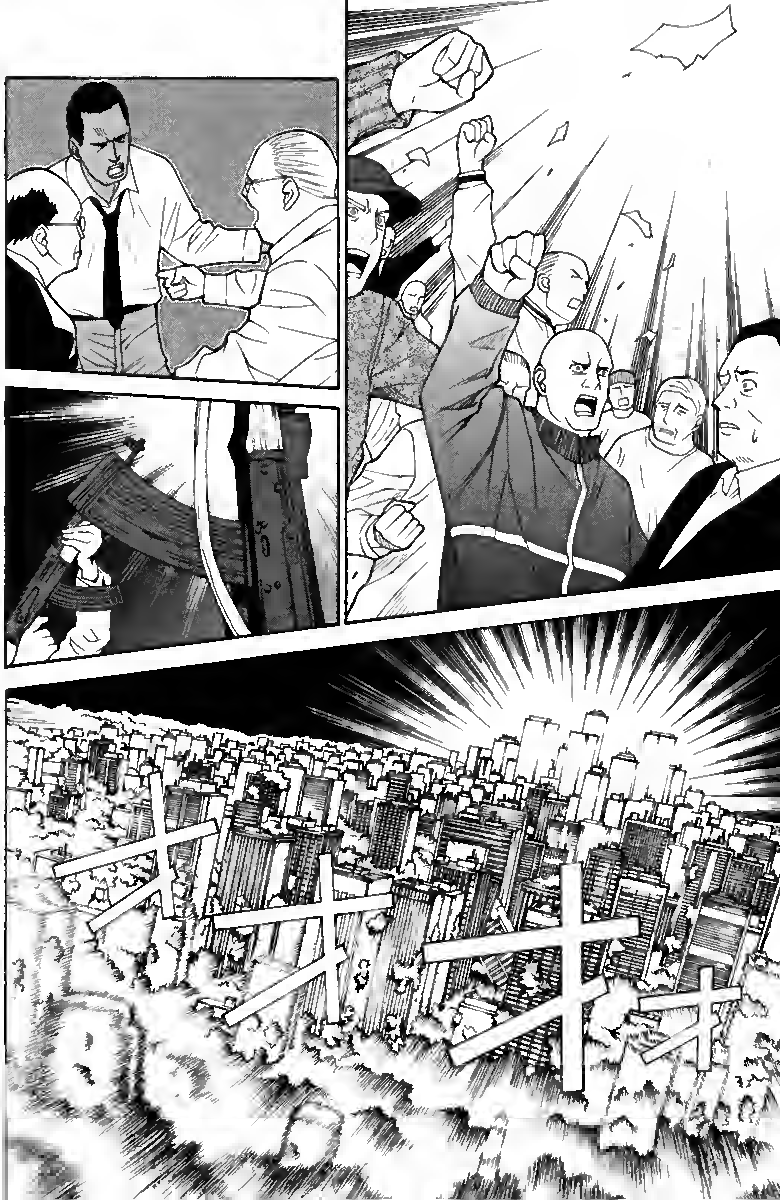
-The inexplicable actions of the plants on this planet Earth, which we humans should rule,
Are no doubt part of a secret plot to destroy mankind!!
If so, we must make a decision before they achieve that goal!!
A declaration from some extremist...?
NO!! HE'S ...!!!

HE'S FROM THE AMERICAN ARMY!!!
ONE OF US...!!!
They took our land!!
They took our beloved families!! And!!
They took our energy!!
Ladies and gentlemen!!!
-Please, take a look!!

What they will take next!!
Is "man itself"!!!
There is no longer a way for me to retrieve that which belongs to me!!
Which is precisely why!! We must take action!!
So that we do not see any more such sacrifices!!
For those that will come after us!!

ズン
ウィィィ
Let us display our will of conviction here!!
We must be the first to stand and demolish the goals of the plants!!
ギュィィィ
ガガガ

We will take back the prosperity of our Earth, and our world!!
I look forward to the cooperation and enthusiasm of all the people watching this broadcast!!!



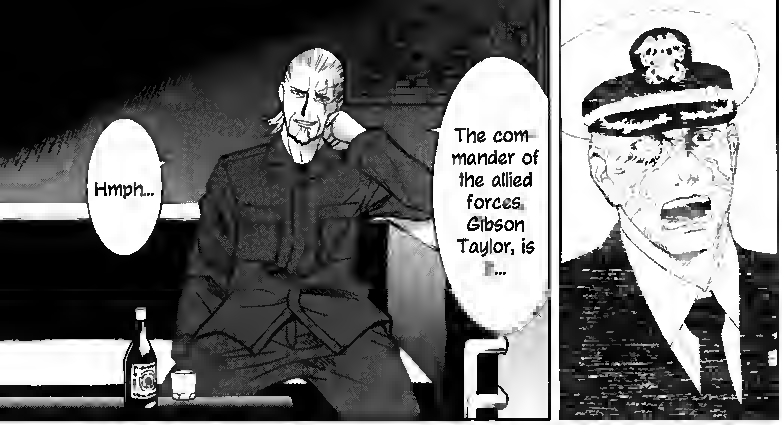
So... It's the appear-ance of the self-sacrificial hero...
After all, even if it's only a portion, the world's most pow-erful Amer-ican army is on the move.
This transmission will likely agitate each nation, and some will even see this as a for-tunate chance to mobilize their armies.
Sip
ooo
Wh... what should we do?!

...Call Elsa for me...
I might be bearing witness to the end of mankind.
I don't have the courage to face that alone

...That can't be...

...What a farce!

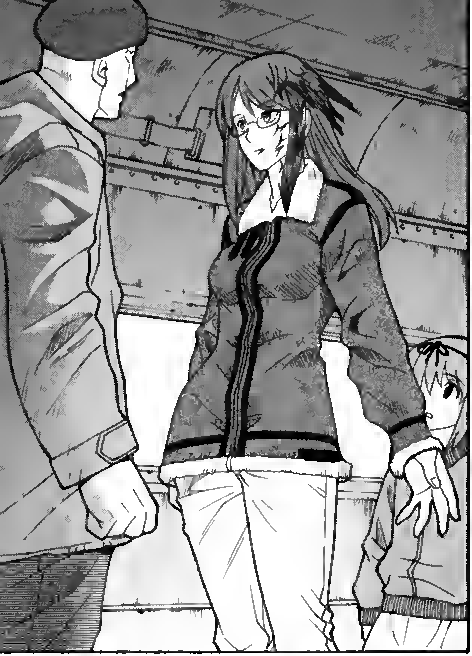
.....


Hmph...
The commander of the allied forces, Gibson Taylor, is...

It's possible. We must hurry and coordinate with our nation's counter-measures...
My word...
So these were the guys that attacked us...
...I see...

EH?!
"WE'RE RE-TURN-ING TO BASE!
YES MA'AM!

Because Dr. Souma is a VIP of the United States.
Either way, we should be receiving orders to return soon.
That's not our top priority right now.
BUT, WHAT ABOUT SHIN?!
.....
...I'm staying behind.



Me too.
Sorry, but can you drop us off?

... you think we can leave you kids here and just go?
We just said that this might become the front line of-

WAIT! HOLD IT, ALL OF YOU!!
THEN, ME TOO...!!
Are you saying you'll go with them?
Kelly?
....

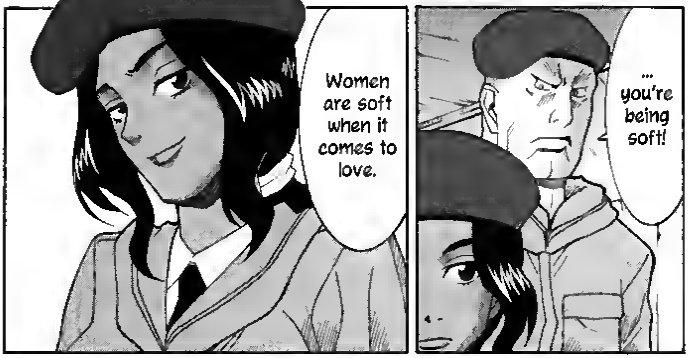
Do you feel confident?

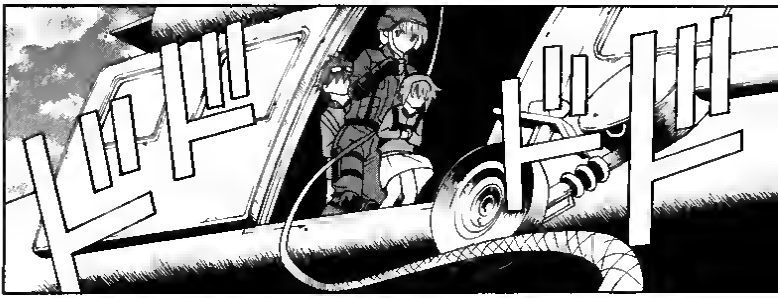
AS A SOLDIER, TO LEAVE YOUR POST IS-

I HAVE COMPLETED THE BASICS FOR COMBAT TRAINING AND SURVIVAL TRAINING!!
!!

I... I AM WELL PREPARED FOR THAT!!
You have three days. After that, if this place becomes a battlefield, don't expect a rescue.

You have three minutes to gather combat gear and prepare to drop by rope while carrying the children.
Move!
ガラ
It'll just get harder the more you chase him.
... you're an idiot.


Women are soft when it comes to love.
... you're being soft!



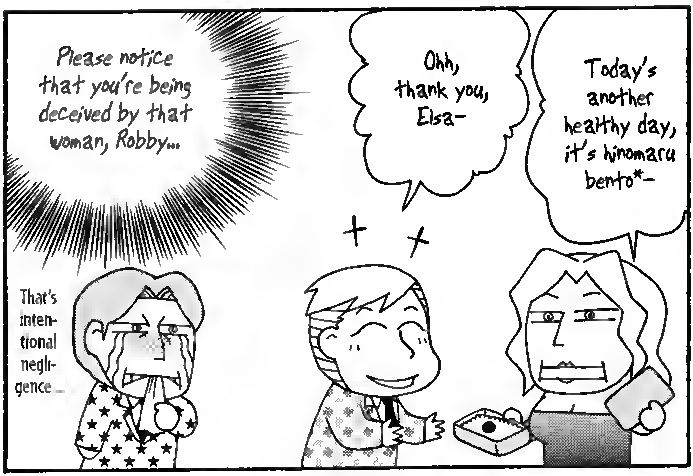
I don't know if that's amazing or not...
WHEN I WAS A STUDENT, I WAS SKILLED ENOUGH TO BE ONE STEP AWAY FROM BEING A STATE REPRESENTATIVE FOR TRAP SHOOTING!
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME.
ARE YOU GONNA BE OKAY, NEE-CHAN?!

HERE WE GO!!
O... OKAY!

Huh...? What am I...
?
??
These guys are...?

...my legs...
They won't stop...

Call Elsa for me...
ドーリーブ
...that can't be...
Just call her already.
It's already over with you, right?
So you prefer that woman over me after all...
Dear- I brought an obento-
I've brought her.
Ohh, Elsa.


Please notice that you're being deceived by that woman, Robby...
That's intentional negligence...
Ohh, thank you, Elsa-
Today's another healthy day, it's hinomaru bento*-

*T/N: BENTO WITH PLAIN WHITE RICE AND ONE UMEBOSHI ON TOP

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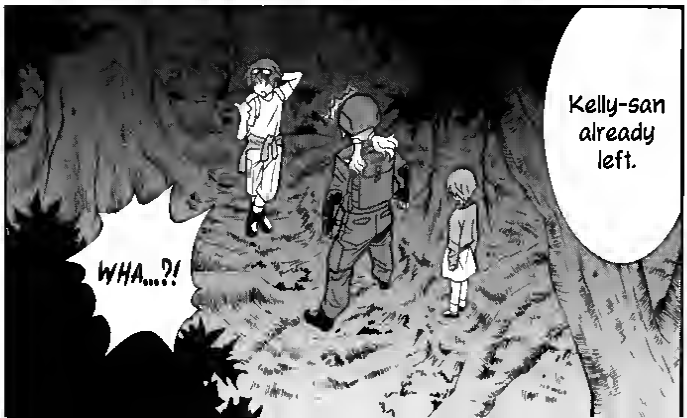
!!

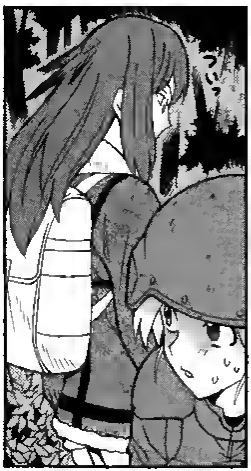
What's taking you so long, Nee-chan?
Let's go already.
H... hold on. Don't rush me.
That way...
What's wrong... weren't you using a transmitter or something?
Umm... huh...?
That's strange... I wonder if the forest is too dense...
That way.
Is it broken-?
W.. we're still out of range for the tiny receiver!

That's right. You should just leave it to Dina.
I SAID IT'S THAT WAY~!!
WAIT WHAT, STOP PUSH-ING!

Look, don't take jungles lightly. Make sure you guys don't separate from me!
And what are you going to do if we walk into a swamp or off a cliff while we follow that intuition?!

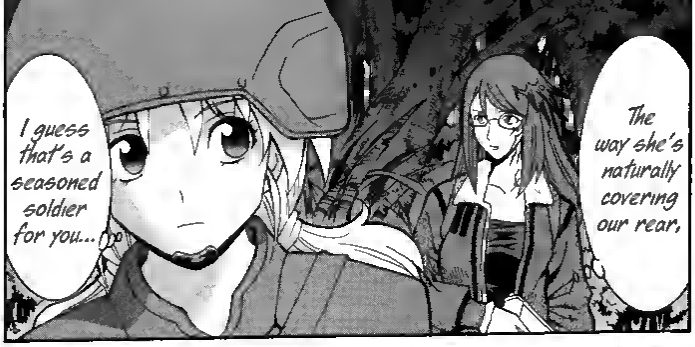

Kelly-san already left.
WHA...?!

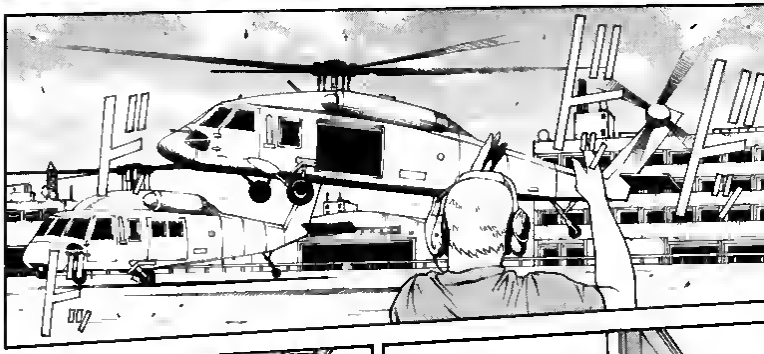
W... we... ... finally found you...
Haa
Haa


うぃっ？

YOU CAN'T COMMUNI-CATE ON YOUR OWN, SO DON'T JUST TAKE OFF LIKE THAT!!
LISTEN!!

this is a unit without a single person who listens to their leader's orders...
Damn it...
... YOU HEAR ME?!
Uhh...
Now, now... We're counting on you. Come on, let's go.
Hmm ...
. . . .

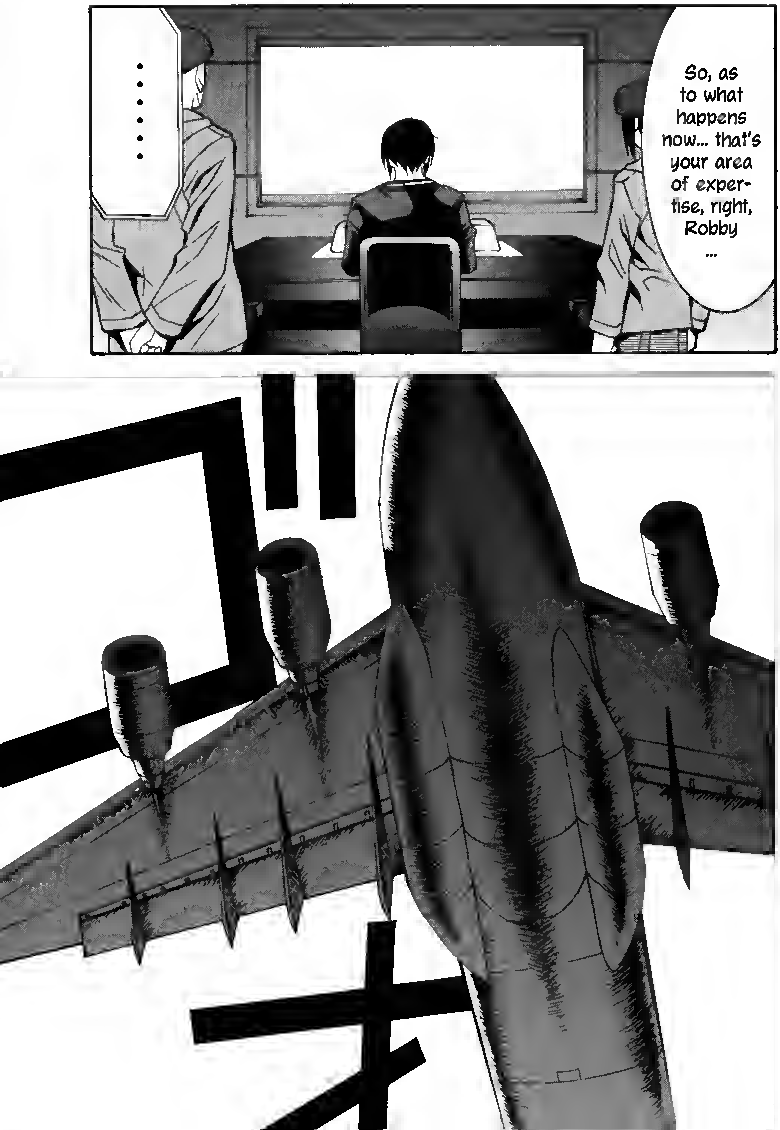

The way she's naturally covering our rear,
I guess that's a seasoned soldier for you...



.....

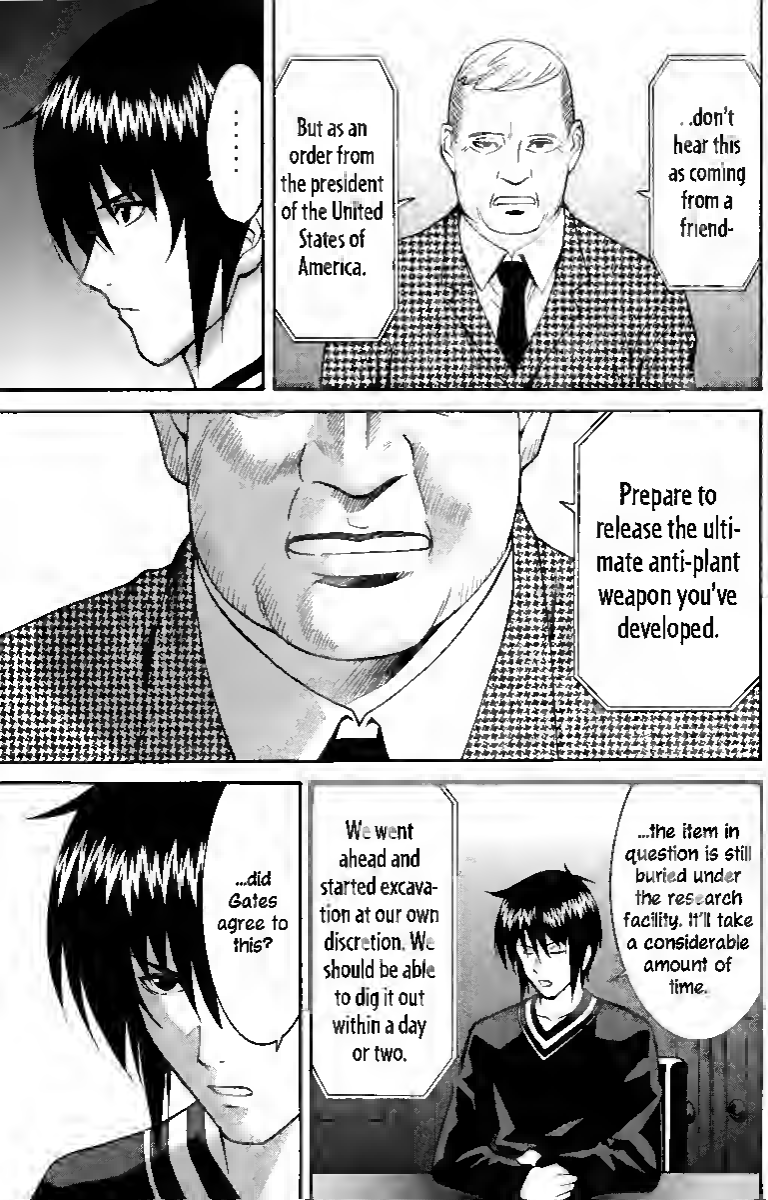
... yes... I couldn't bear to be alone when I imagined the worst case scenario
Hii Ken
...Elsa's with you, too?
Is that... his wife?
That's expected of a loving husband like you I'm jealous
Why would I?
It's fine to laugh at me
.....
IS THIS THE TIME TO TALK ABOUT SUCH THINGS?!
I... I see.
That's right- and it's a passionate love. She was a talented college freshman, but Robby won her over, and she abandoned her studies.

What can you tell me about the situation?
Well, what the Captain's saying is understandable as well
Nd...
If there's anything to be gained from panicking, I'll try panicking for you
I went and saw the real thing.
There's no doubt
It looked like the orbital elevator, which was passed off as an 「empty theory」, was completed.
...my God...
By the plants... that is.


So, as to what happens now... that's your area of expertise, right, Robby ...
.....

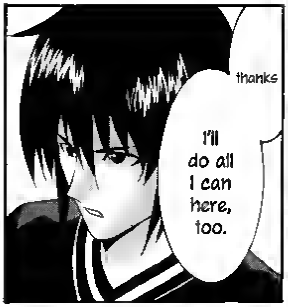
...This situation is the same as the colonial policies or the scramble for oil of the old days.
The entire world will be swallowed up by all the large nations acting as forceful, self-serving invaders.

There's just that much value in the orbital elevators.
I wonder if the rebel American army that staged the coup d'état, is planning to ride that opportunity and mobilize...
...probably... Currently, every nation is swarming towards the three orbital elevators in South America, Indonesia, and Africa.
Being within the sphere of America's influence, the chance of anyone taking over the one in South America is low, but... The rebel American army is trying to take actions to destroy it.
.....


. . . . .
But as an order from the president of the United States of America.
. .don't hear this as coming from a friend-
Prepare to release the ultimate anti-plant weapon you've developed.
...did Gates agree to this?
We went ahead and started excavation at our own discretion. We should be able to dig it out within a day or two.
...the item in question is still buried under the research facility. It'll take a considerable amount of time.

Of course.
Currently, with America's safety as our number one concern, we couldn't possibly allow for a single corporation to act on their own
...all right.
But I have just one 「condition」.
If that's too much for you to swallow, then...
-You're making a deal with the *current* United States of America?
Ken... are you trying to make me explain our current situation to you once more?
If you want to act like you're unable to discern the right time and place for these things, I'll just respond by ***putting you in an unfavorable situation...***

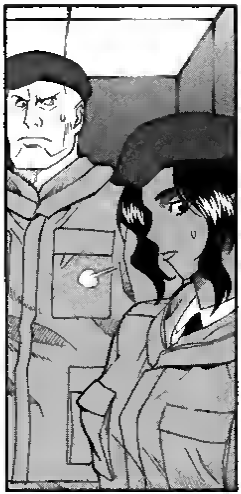
NO!!
.....!
I TRUSTED THE UNITED STATES AND YOU WITH THE DATA THAT HELD MY BROTHER'S 「LIFE」 ON THE LINE!!
I HAVE TO MAKE YOU GIVE ME SOMETHING IN RETURN FOR THAT.
THERE'S A HIGH CHANCE THAT I WON'T BE COMPENSATED UNTIL HELL FREEZES OVER!!
EVEN MORE SO BECAUSE IT'S NOW
I WON'T BACK DOWN!!
.....


thanks
I'll do all I can here, too.

This is the best I can do right now.
...if it doesn't conflict with our military affairs, I'll consider it.

.....

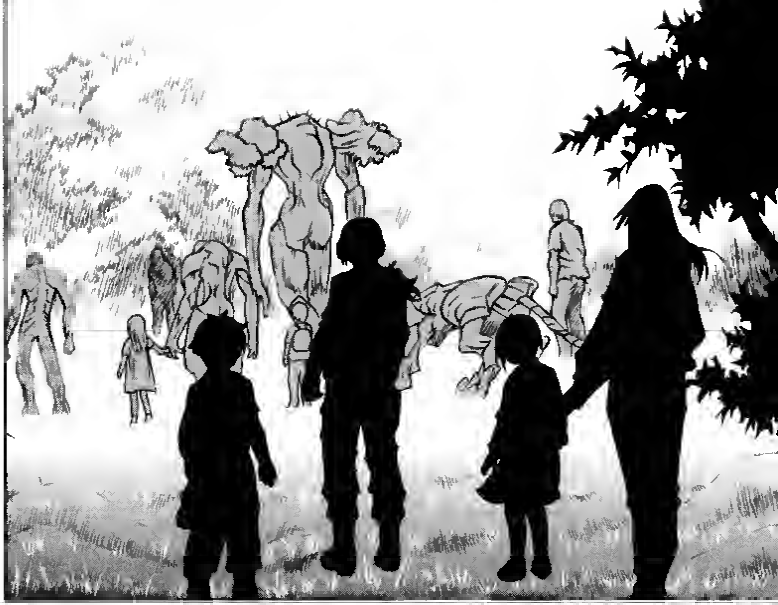
That's a politician for you. That was a whole other level of threat...
... FUU ...!

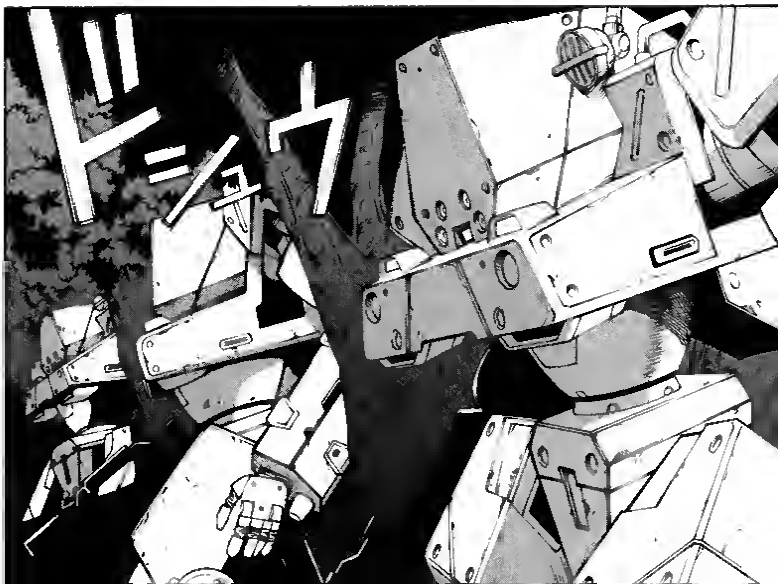


...ah?!
!
little two little three little
... a song?
... voices?
ズッ
ズズッ

...eh...?

Ten little, nine little,
eight little Indians
Seven little, six little,
five little Indians
Four little, three little,
two little Indians
...what's going on...?
.....




ドシュウ

We've sped up the invasion on the rebel American army.
Roger.
Just stand by as you are.

ゴォォォ

I WON'T BACK DOWN!!
EVEN MORE SO BECAUSE IT'S NOW,
Why not?
-What should I do Elsa
You can do it!
Elsa says it's okay, so all right.
SHUT IT.
Make sure you don't conflict with the military affairs-

If I had to choose, I'd say you're making me cry..
Make sure you don't destroy the friend-ship-
It's fine to laugh at me.

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VERDANT LORD

by Hiroshi Takashige & Atsushi Soga

If you like this manga please support its creators by buying a copy of the original book.

Verdant Lord v8 Ch 51

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SCRATCH
?!!

FROM BEHIND?! HOW?! THERE SHOULD ONLY BE THE FOUR THAT DROPPED...

GUH!!
WAS THAT GUNSHOT JUST NOW?!
I see...
You too, huh.

This man is...
AH!! THIS GUY!!
HE'S ONE OF THE GUYS THAT KIDNAPPED DINA!!
Which means... there must be one more nearby?!

Pu... haha! That's right, he should be nearby.
Kuh... be careful guys!
More importantly, why are you working with the US army?!
Is it the Colonel's orders?
Aauh ...
?

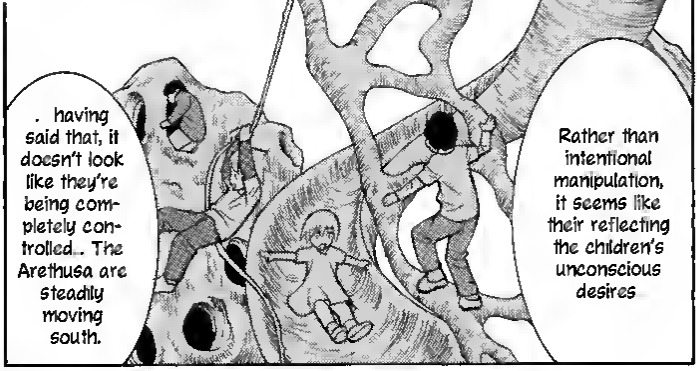
WHAT WERE YOU DOING HERE?!
TELL YOUR PARTNER TO DISARM HIMSELF! IF NOT...

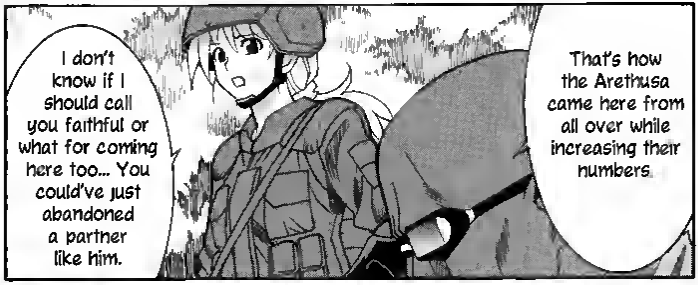
I'm not obligated to answer you.
!

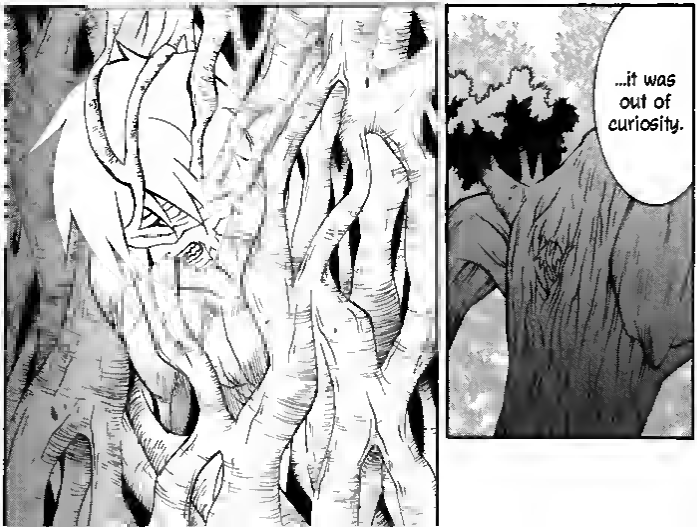
S... STOP!! DON'T YOU KNOW WE'RE IN NO SITUATION FOR A SKIRMISH RIGHT NOW?!
WAI...!
....
She said "stop"...
?
What's wrong with you...
UI... UH!
.....
I think she's saying "stop"...

...tell me the situation. I'm not exactly on a mission here... I'll tell you what I know.
How about it?
.. you should've said that from the beginning.
I can't trust him-
There were some American troops nearby.. are they not with you?
EH?!
...that's the rebel army!
A lot's happened... it would take a while to explain.
REBEL...?!
But in any case... you're pretty good.
Mm..?
HMM?!

HEY, THAT'S MINE!! WHEN DID YOU?!
You didn't notice your gun being taken? You're an amazing US soldier
Nee-chan's probably thinking "I'm done with this"...
I DON'T NEED YOU TO NAR-RATE!!
Shin...? No idea.
Look how many there are. He could be any in the middle of all that.
Right ...
...with all those children gath-ered, it seems they're able to control the Arethusa.
Allelo-pathy, right...


. having said that, it doesn't look like they're being completely controlled... The Arethusa are steadily moving south.
Rather than intentional manipulation, it seems like their reflecting the children's unconscious desires


I don't know if I should call you faithful or what for coming here too... You could've just abandoned a partner like him.
That's how the Arethusa came here from all over while increasing their numbers.


...it was out of curiosity.

Hmph... you're not getting any sympathy from me.
Sam's probably somewhere around here too, right? We can't let our guard down.
It didn't look like he had any of his human will left in him, though...
Are the Arethusa heading for 「that」 after all?
Putting aside the fact that the Arethusa are aiming for the dome... I wonder why the children followed it.
It's a strange view...
...I think so.
There's nothing strange about it.
I realized this while observing them-

It looks like they used to be those children's parents and family members.
Even though they're dead and completely changed now... I guess there's no changing the fact that they're family.
My god...
.....

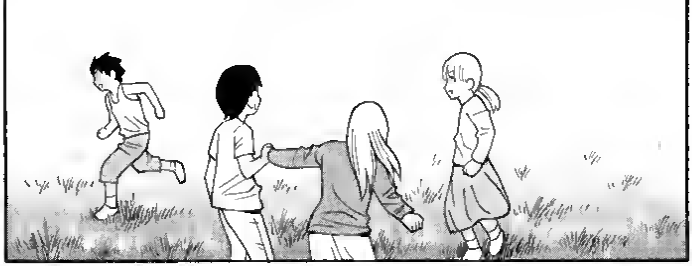
Let's hurry,
And go find Shin...
Tug
Yeah.
.....
Right... Let's go...
I'm gonna go ask them!
Ah, hey.
トテテ

Whoa
You wait right there!

It's a scary thing, you know... not knowing any fear.
That's doesn't sound bad. Nice and simple.
... just get straight to the point, huh?!

What are we gonna do if you get controlled too?
Be quiet. Just follow my orders.
AAH!!

This should be fun.



We'll be okay right?!
Hee
Ah!

...I see.
It seems that all the adults that have approached until now have hurt those kids...
They all hate guns.
Eh...
.....

Is this better?
Please,
We just want to talk.
ブルル

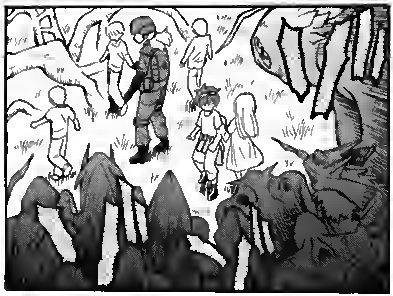
Step step
An...
Wai...

...
S... stop pulling!!
C... come on, walk.
Who are they-?
Who's that?
Who's that?

A new kid.
Where's she from?
No,
This is our first time meeting, but I remember her. She was in the same building.
Did you come to play?
H... hey, did a young onii-chan come by earlier?
He's an Asian guy... have you seen him?
... what are you gonna do if that person's here?
Mm?
Take him back, of course.

No!!
No.
No!
クイッ
We won't hand him over.
Because, once you come here, you're family
Then,
We... we can't. We have to find that person.
Let's play.
Hey, let's play.
Let's play.

You guys should just stay and join our family too!
Eh...
ズンッ



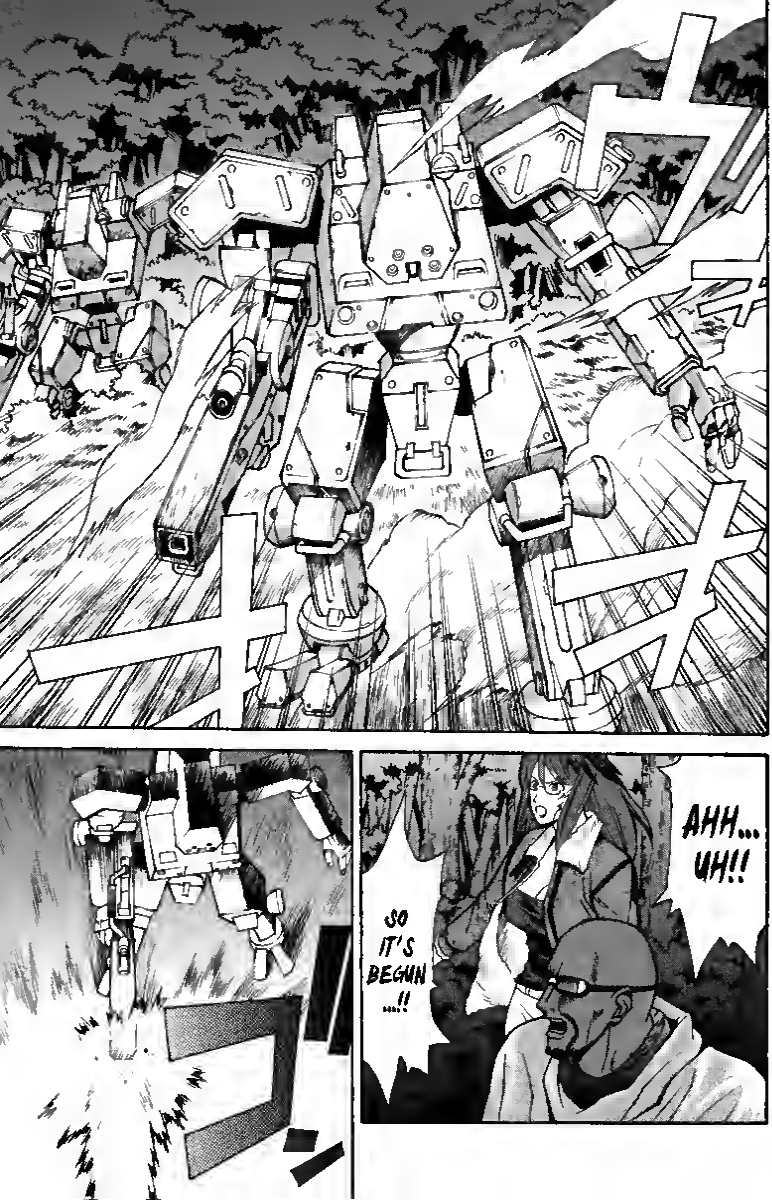
H... hold on...

パシッ

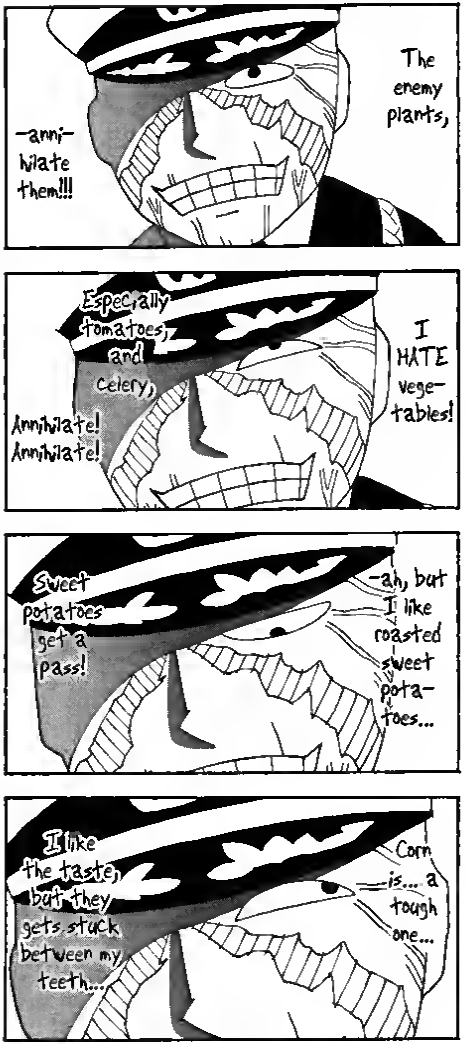
Come on, you too, let's go

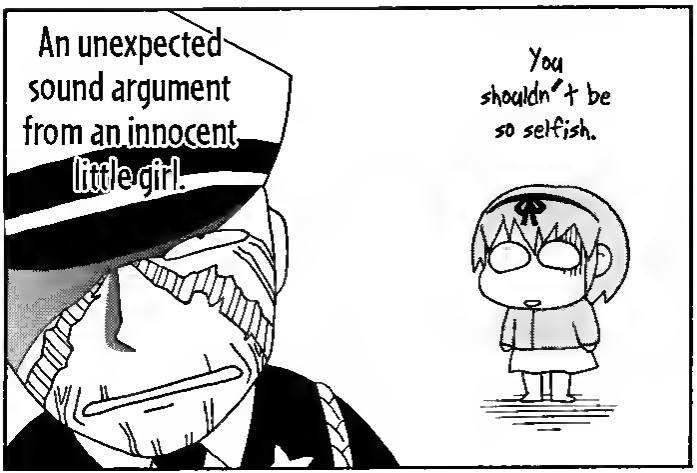
You shouldn't be so selfish
.....
This girl's scary.
I don't like you.
I hate you.
We don't need you.
Get out.
Get out.

ドド
ドド
?!!


AHH... UH!!
SO IT'S BEGUN ...!!

THE ENEMY PLANTS,
-ANNIHILATE THEM!!!


The enemy plants,
—anni-
hilate them!!!
I HATE vege-tables!
Especially tomatoes, and celery,
Annihilate! Annihilate!
Sweet potatoes get a pass!
—ah, but I like roasted sweet pota-toes...
I like the taste, but they gets stuck between my teeth...
Corn is... a tough one...


An unexpected sound argument from an innocent little girl.
You shouldn't be so selfish.

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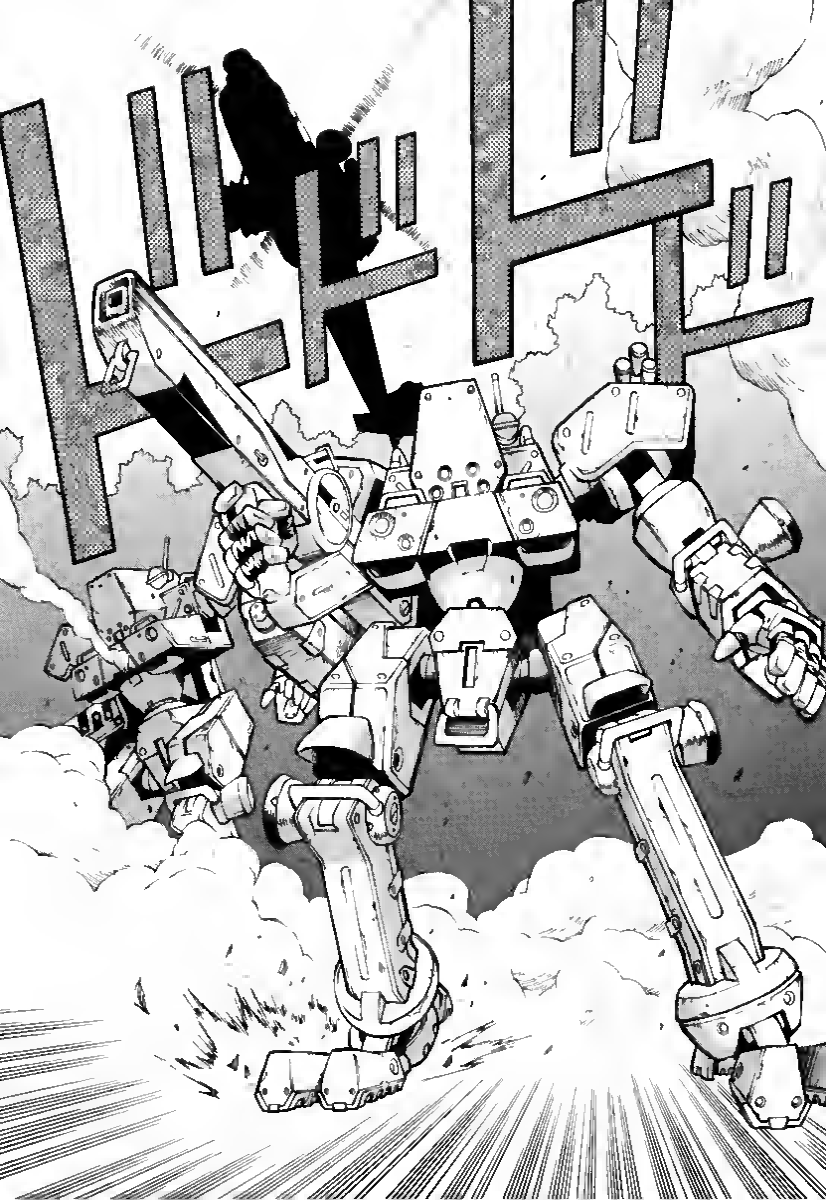
please respond
Shin Souma, answer if you can hear me...
..no response as per usual, huh.
Please respond ...
... yes...
Emergency notice.
Commencement of rebel army's attack has been confirmed All units prepare for battle at your own discretion.
So it's begun ...



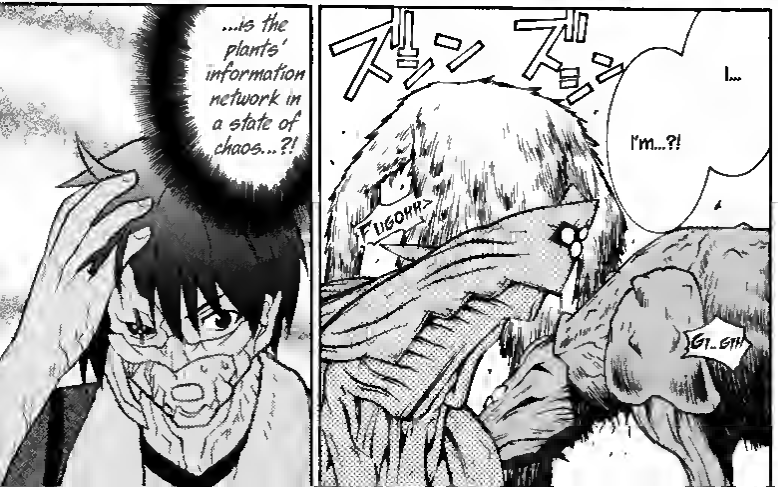
We're sending out signals at full strength,
But once the battle begins, we probably won't be able to send out a decent transmis-sion...

Once the boy loses reception,
The bomb that's implanted in his neck will go off within the set time.

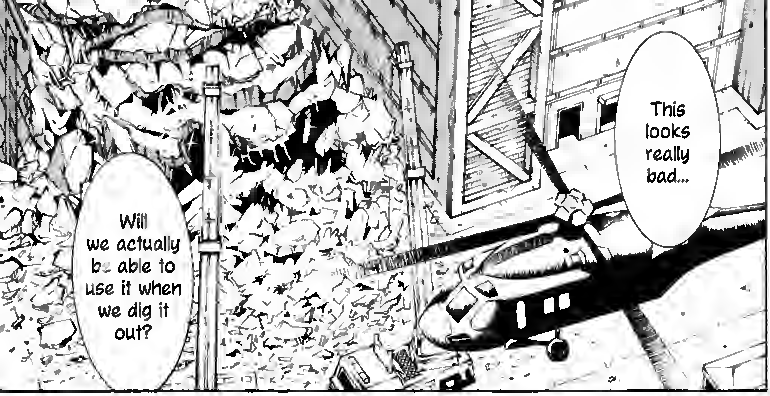
...I don't exactly feel too good about this.
Since I've worked personally with him now.
.....
ゴトッ

You fool...
HAVE THE DESIGNS BEEN CHANGED SO WE KNOW WHO'S WHO?!
IS THE ANTI-MT EQUIPMENT NOT READY YET?!!
Getting taken over so easily by that plant...

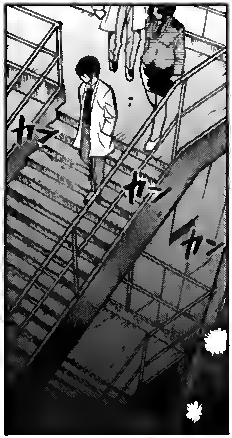
?!!
NEIIGH
GIH
GOH


...is the plants' information network in a state of chaos...?!
I...
I'm...?!
FUGOH
GI..GH

GAH ...?!!
WHAT-EVER!! NOW'S MY CHANCE!!
Wha.. what is this?! Ahh wings ...
WINGS !!!
DAMN IT...!!
GET A HOLD OF YOUR-SELF! SHIN!!


This looks really bad...
Will we actually be able to use it when we dig it out?

Is this where- that thing is, that anti-plant weapon?


カン
カン
カン

As long as the underground area is intact, it should be fine

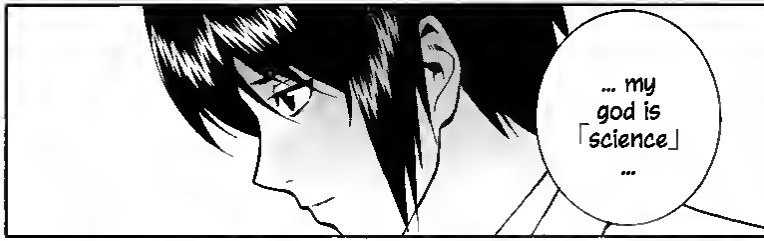
Yeah.. But that's not exactly the name of the weapon itself.
A system that can fight off the plants ...
So I guess you can say it's the name of the 「method」.

Gene suppression by RNA interference.
「GESRI」 for short.
... I'm sorry, but I'm not too knowledgeable in this area, so...
... in order to build an organism's body, genes act as blueprints and a workshop
You're trying to disturb the RNA, which can be considered the factory's manager, with small interfering RNA, right?
Right.
By suppressing protein expression, we force cell death.

...that sounds dangerous.
Based on theory, there's no danger to this.
It's been set up to only affect the genes of the plants from the multi-worlds.
But ultimately, that's only within the realm of the 「theory」.
That's a rather dangerous gamble.
... in terms of classification, it's either a biological weapon, or a chemical weapon. -I'm not exactly ecstatic about it falling into those categories.
With just this, we should be able to slowly force the plants to their deaths in a simple manner.
And at the same time, I'll be thinking of a more practical method with an immediate effect.

If by chance-
We take one false step, and all the plants are exterminated, what will you do?!
It probably won't take very long for humans to follow behind them
.....
..although we're clinging to something like this in an attempt to survive,
No matter how much we struggle, we may be fated to walk the road to destruction...
Fate.. is it

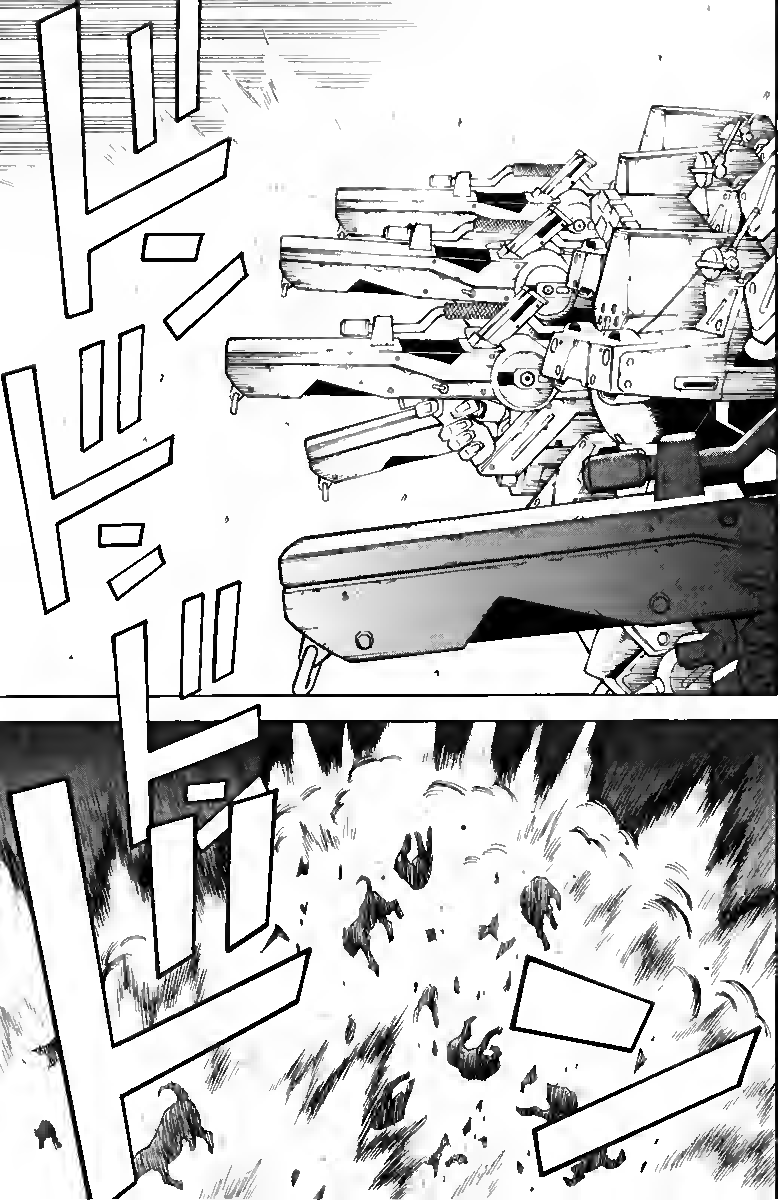
... that's blasphemous.
If you want to build a face of god using words like fate and destiny based on hindsight, then by all means, feel free...
Because there's something we can do, regardless of the results, all we can do is do it.


... my god is 「science」 ...

Or will you wake up to justice and try to stop this mad scientist?
As a member of the military, will you execute the president's orders?
...what will you do?

...all right, let's get started...
What are you talking about?!
And if you say I'm 「blasphemous」, this won't be the end either...
Especially according to Western morals

ドドド

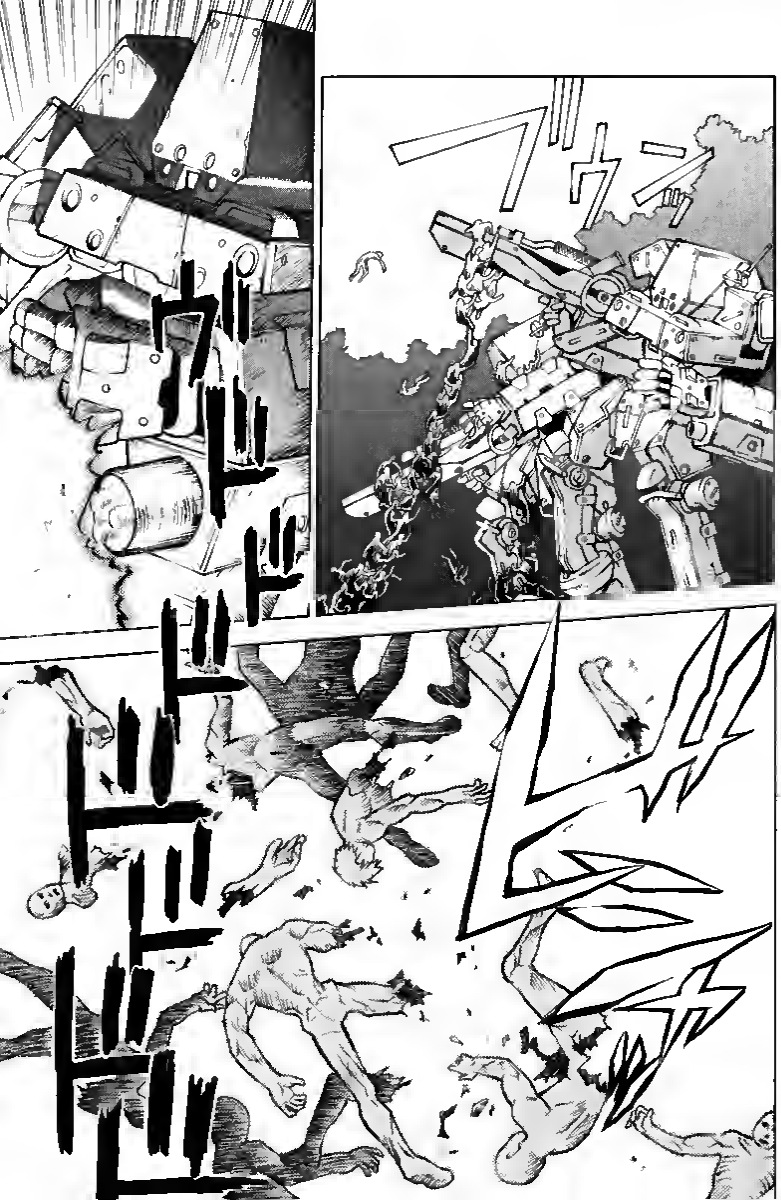

ドドド

GUYS!! ARE YOU TWO ALRIGHT?!

RUN!!
WE'RE HEADING BACK TO WHERE KELLY IS!!

ドドド

?!
ズン


ウィーン
ドドド
ドドド
ドドド

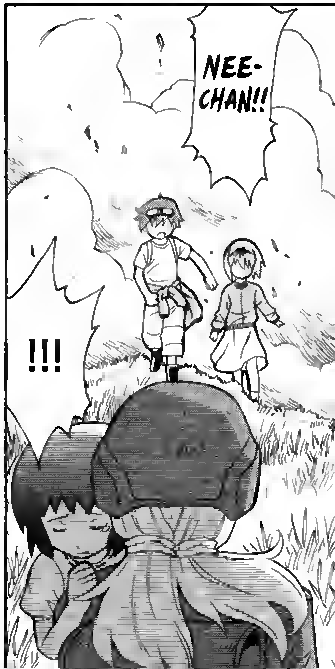
JUST A LITTLE FURTHER!!
HH HH
AAU UHH...
UWA- NHH...
PA- PA...
PA- PAA ...
PA- PA...
GET UP...

NEE-CHAN?!
GO ON AHEAD!!
KUH...
NEE-CHAN!!

AHH

UWAHH!
NOO!!

YOU IDIOT!!! WHY DIDN'T YOU FALL BACK?!!


NEE-CHAN!!
!!!

DINA SAID WE HAD TO STAY!!
HURRY!!

HE'S RIGHT THERE!!
HURRY, BEFORE HE NOTICES YOU!!
HURRY!!

I already noticed ...
All of you ...
Too... late...

ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ
Saluta-
tions...

緑の王 VERDANT LORD 8

マガジンZKC0363

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